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THE TIMES

THURSDAY APRIL 19 1984

20p

THE TIMES

In common with other national newspapers, *The Times* will not be published tomorrow, Good Friday. There will be publication as usual on Saturday and on Easter Monday.

Saturday

Cross to bear
Salute to Keston College: an Easter reminder of religious persecution behind the Iron Curtain.



Days of wine...
A guide to the best wines to sample over the holiday.

...and posers
The Times Jumbo Crossword, with an additional set of concise clues.

Poll fall for Labour and Kinnock

The popularity of Mr Neil Kinnock and the Labour Party have fallen significantly in the past month according to a Gallup Poll published in the *Daily Telegraph* today. Mr Kinnock's 42 per cent rating is five points below last month's and one of his lowest since becoming Opposition leader. Kinnock speech, back page

Murder charge

John Lambert, aged 33, will appear before Oxford magistrates this morning charged with the murder of his three sisters in the city on Tuesday.

Port recaptured

Nicaraguan rebel leader conceded last night that government troops have recaptured the port of San Juan del Norte. Managua says the rebels have been driven into Costa Rica. Page 8

New PSA head

Mr Gordon Manzie, aged 53, deputy secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry, is to be the new chief executive of the Property Services Agency, succeeding Mr Montague Alford, who resigned last month.

Punjab curfew

A curfew was imposed on the Punjab capital, Chandigarh, and two Pakistani pilots were arrested as India linked Islamabad to Sikh unrest. Rival factions, page 6

Choosy clergy

Too many Anglican clergymen are rejecting unpopular parishes in the North and Midlands in favour of "soft option" southern parishes. Page 4

Gower leads

David Gower will captain the MCC against Essex, the county cricket champions, in next week's traditional early season fixture. Reports, page 26; photographs, back page

Leader page 13

Letters: On Betanay case, from Mr R. Moxham, and others; Harpoon contract, from Mr R. A. Grantham; officers and others, from Mr P. H. Turner

Leading articles: Libyan embassy; Bush on disarmament; Sacrifice, page 11

Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd on Randolph Churchill; Fiona MacCarthy reviews A J P Taylor; Gary Firth on the week's fiction; Linda Christmas reviews *The Australian Dilemma*; Features, pages 10, 12

Sirna's succession struggle; why Sir Keith Joseph has angered the teachers; dispelling the concern over Bonn's loyalty to the West; Spectrum: a profile of H. Sisson.

Next door to war.

A Special Report on Kuwait, the oil-rich emirate with warning neighbours, pages 15-17

Obituary: page 14

Professor Thorald Dickinson, Dr F. B. Hora, Machito.

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Gaddafi phones hourly orders to people's bureau

By Alan Hamilton, Stewart Tendler and John Witherow

Intense diplomatic negotiations were under way last night in an effort to prevent the siege of the Libyan People's Bureau in St James's Square, London, escalating into a major international incident.

As the Foreign Office held urgent talks with a senior Libyan diplomat in London, the British Embassy in Tripoli was surrounded and sealed off by armed Libyan militiamen, and three Britons were detained by the authorities there. Later, the ambassador and his staff were told they could leave for their homes.

Libyan sources in London, who had been in touch with Tripoli during the day, told *The Times* last night that Colonel Gaddafi had taken personal charge of the London siege, was on the telephone to the St James's Square bureau hourly during the day, and had instructed the bureau's staff to remain in the building, "even if it takes a year". The sources indicated that, if police attempted to storm the Bureau, British hostages would be taken in Libya.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, confirmed yesterday that the Government had had a message from the Bureau expressing regret at the killing of Policewoman Yvonne Fletcher, aged 25, who died from gunshot wounds after a burst of automatic fire, apparently from inside the Bureau, on Tuesday morning. But reporters who managed to telephone the Bureau yesterday were answered by an unnamed spokesman who insisted that the staff inside, estimated at between 20 and 30,

were not responsible for the shooting. The spokesman told *The Times*: "We have got no arms, none whatever. We are surprised, just like you. We have seen it on the television. Ask the police - they were outside. We are just doing our job."

Another reporter was told: "All I can say is that it was nothing to do with us. We are innocent, that is all. It wasn't from our people. It could have come from the street, anywhere. No fire has been from this building at all."

Last night the police admitted that they were no longer certain that the gunman was still in the building. The estimated 8,000 Britons in Libya, mainly oil and construction workers, have been advised to remain indoors, and to listen to the BBC World Service for developments. Mr Julia Miles, wife of the British Ambassador, Mr Oliver Miles, speaking on the telephone from the embassy residence in Tripoli yesterday, said that the embassy and the residence had been surrounded by about sixty armed guards.

A European diplomat contacted by *The Times*, who asked for his name and country not to be revealed, said he had visited the area and had found armed Libyan police 20ft from the main doors, on the Embassy premises; all side roads leading to the area had been sealed off. There was no sign of violence.

In a long statement issued on Tuesday night, the Libyan Jana news agency gave warning of the "dangerous results" that

would arise from any attempt to storm the People's Bureau in London.

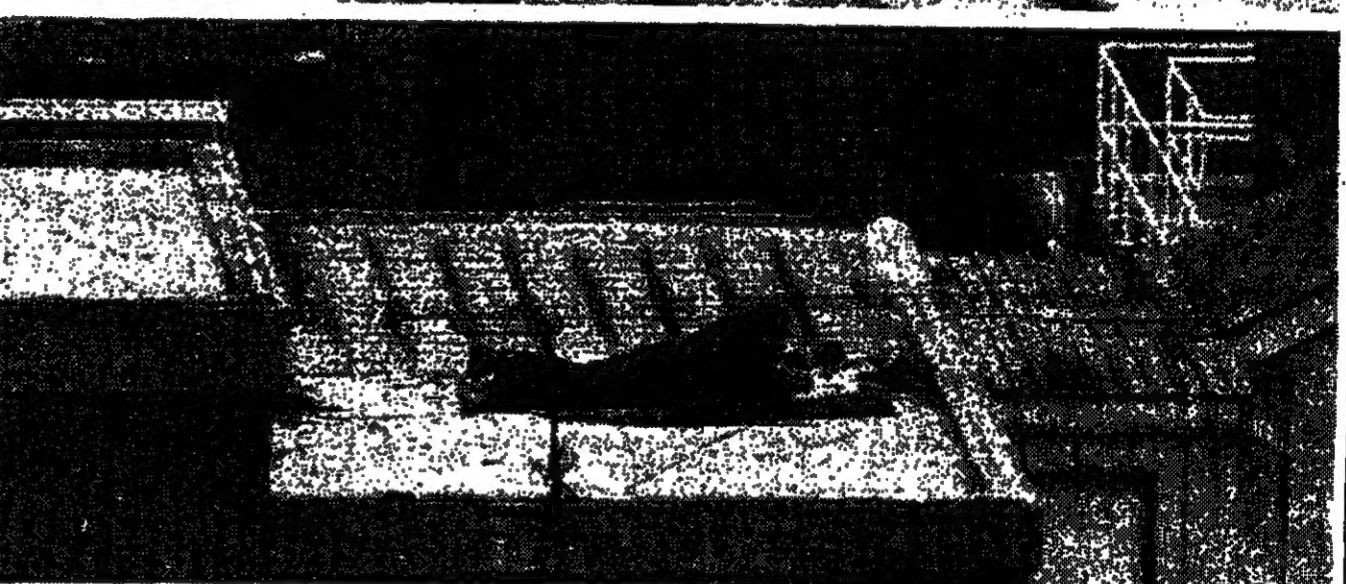
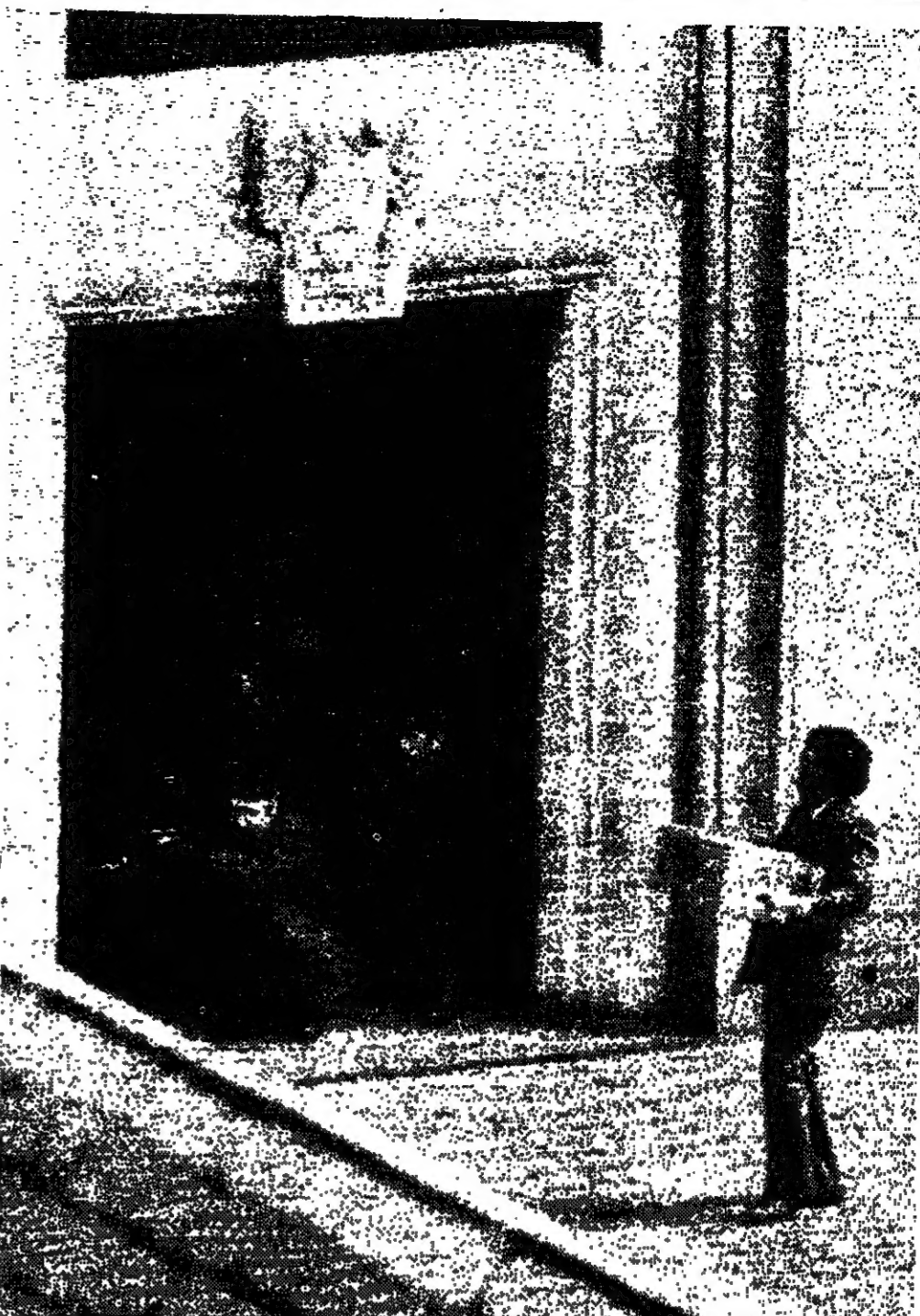
Late yesterday, as the siege was about to enter its second night, senior police officers indicated that they were prepared to employ patience rather than entertain any plans for high drama.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Richard Wells, head of Scotland Yard's press branch, summed up negotiations as "proceeding slowly, calmly, and patiently". There had been no demands or conditions; discussions were "fairly cordial," and the police were talking to a number of people in the building.

At the beginning of the siege, Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, said one aim for the police would eventually be to search the Bureau for weapons and explosives. Yesterday Mr Wells said: "That is so remote, it is not a goal at this moment. We shall want to consider this when we bring the matter to a conclusion, that is when we have brought the people out peacefully without bloodshed; then we will look at the question of entry."

Mr Wells was speaking against the backdrop of a day in which little movement was being made, at least within the public gaze. At lunchtime a Libyan diplomat delivered food to the Bureau.

Continued on page 2, col 7



Ambassador and staff allowed to leave embassy in Tripoli

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The British ambassador to Libya and his staff who had been held virtual prisoners in the embassy for nearly 24 hours were today allowed to leave their homes last night.

The first sign of movement in the Anglo-Libyan crisis came after a day of steadily intensifying diplomatic activity which culminated in a 40-minute meeting between a Libyan diplomat in London and Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office.

Earlier in the day Mr Oliver Miles, the ambassador in Tripoli, had been allowed through the cordon of revolutionary students who had been preventing people from leaving the embassy, for a high-level consultation with authorities at the Foreign Liaison Bureau - the Libyan ministry of foreign affairs.

A boy aged 11, a girl aged six and 11 women, including four wives, were among those in the

embassy. It was unclear last night whether the Libyans would remove the smaller groups of students who had also stationed themselves around the embassy staff houses. But a Foreign Office spokesman announcing the lifting of the Tripoli siege said that Whitehall welcomed the development.

A series of secret meetings took place in London from early morning, between Foreign Office officials and at least one diplomat Mr Muftah Fitouri, a senior representative at the People's Bureau, with whom the Foreign Office has had many previous dealings.

Then came the meeting between Mr Luce and Mr Fitouri, who was not in the People's Bureau in St James's Square when Tuesday's siege began.

Mr Luce expressed Britain's sense of outrage over the events in the square which led to the death of Woman Police Con-

stable Yvonne Fletcher and the wounding of 11 other people. It was the first duty of the police to maintain law and order, he said, and he renewed the request made by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, for permission for the police to enter the bureau.

The police want not only to investigate the shooting incident but also to search the bureau for arms and explosives. Mr Luce also demanded urgent clarification from Tripoli on the fate of three British businessmen, seized by Colonel Gaddafi's police on Tuesday apparently in an attempt to increase pressure on Britain to accede to Libya's three demands.

These are for the siege of St James's Square to be lifted, for all Libyans in detention to be freed and for all future demonstrations hostile to Colonel Gaddafi's style of government to be banned by the British

The siege goes on: a man with a food parcel walks towards the Libyan People's Bureau in St James's Square, London, yesterday as policemen cover from a doorway. Across the square where WPC Yvonne Fletcher was fatally wounded in Tuesday's shooting during a demonstration, two marksmen lie keeping watch

Number in work begins to rise

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The number of people in work rose last year for the first time since the recession began in 1979 and the number of new jobs created is accelerating, according to government figures yesterday.

Between September and December, 118,000 extra people found jobs, the biggest quarterly increase for five years, compared with a rise of 54,000 in the third quarter and 39,000 in the second. At the end of the year 23.3 million people were in work, including the self-employed, 155,000 more than 12 months earlier and the highest total since June 1982.

Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Employment, said the news confirmed that the economic recovery was bringing jobs with it. Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, said that while public attention focused on factory closures and redundancies "the plain fact is that the new jobs are coming".

Separate figures published yesterday also bear out government forecasts of continued recovery well into next year, with a further rise in the longer leading index of cyclical indicators, which looks about 12 months ahead.

Virtually all the jobs created last year were in the service sector, on which ministers' hopes for employment are pinned. Employment in services rose by 280,000 to 13.3 million, its highest level since June 1980.

But employment in manufacturing continues to decline despite increased production, the result of swiftly rising productivity.

Output per worker in manufacturing at the end of last year was 7.9 per cent higher than a year earlier, more than double the 3.2 per cent improvement recorded in 1982.

Productivity in the economy as a whole rose by about 4 per cent during last year, up from 3 per cent in 1982.

Mr King said the improved productivity figures and the growth of the labour force - expected to be at least 160,000 this year - "increase the scale of the challenge to be faced in getting unemployment lower."

The way to more jobs, ministers believe, lies in large part in lower pay deals. But the Employment Department said yesterday that earnings in the year to February rose by an underlying 7.75 per cent for the seventh month running, well above the rise in prices, while the Confederation of British Industry reported that wage settlements in manufacturing are averaging about 6 per cent so far this year.

Higher productivity, has nevertheless kept companies' costs down. Wage costs per unit of output in manufacturing rose by less than 2 per cent during 1983, the smallest increase for 15 years.



Music Director: CLAUDIO ABBADO

Meeting the Music Makers

Each morning in the last week of March, some thousand London schoolchildren came to meet personally members of the Orchestra - and their instruments - before attending the subsequent special lunchtime concert.

Dear LSO I loved your concert - it was great. The man on the xylophone looked as if he was mad he went so fast. Anyway, I just want to say, Yours passionately, Jenna

Dear LSO Thank you very much for your magnificent concert in the Barbican. I specially liked watching the violin boys bobbing up and down. I loved the music, even though I am not especially very musical - I don't play an instrument myself. Even so, it was one of the best days out I have ever had. My dad is also pleased that I finally got interested in classical music so you satisfied him as well. Thanks again for a gorgeous day. Katherine

Dear LSO Your concert was really brilliant. I was really sad when it ended. I thought the best part was 'Night on a Bare Mountain' but I liked all the tunes. I could have stayed there all day listening to your concert. They were so good, they were really great... fantastic... really good... I could go on for ever writing these words. Jane

Dear LSO Thank you all very much for giving us a super concert last week. I enjoyed it very much especially seeing the orchestra. My father has already bought me a tape of Liebermann Kije. Zimeta

Dear LSO I thought your concert was fab. I liked

the 'Night on a Bare Mountain' best because it was magical and spooky. I was very sad when it ended. Nancy

Extracts from some of the many letters young schoolchildren sent to the Orchestra.

Beethoven Cycle

Demand for tickets for the cycle conducted by our Music Director Claudio Abbado has been phenomenal. Details of the final four concerts in the series are given below - you are advised to book now!

Sunday 22 April 7.30

Symphony No.8

Symphony No.9 'Choral'

Elizabeth Connell, Soprano

Alfreda Hodgson, Mezzo Soprano

Robert Schum, Tenor

Benjamin Luxon, Bass

London Symphony Chorus

Claudio Abbado, Conductor

In association with British Airways

Tuesday 24 April 7.30

Piano Concerto No.2

Symphony No.4

Piano Concerto No.4

Maurizio Pollini, Piano

Claudio Abbado, Conductor

Sunday 29 April 7.30

Overture 'Coriolan'

Piano Concerto No.3

Symphony No.6 'Pastoral'

Maurizio Pollini, Piano

Claudio Abbado, Conductor

Sponsored by Peter Shire

Wednesday 2 May 7.30

Overture 'Leonora No.2'

Piano Concerto No.5 'Emperor'

Symphony No.7

Maurizio Pollini, Piano

Claudio Abbado, Conductor

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Tanker hit by Iraqi missile

By Our Foreign Staff

Lloyd's of London yesterday confirmed that a Panamanian tanker had been hit by an Iraqi missile in the Gulf.

Rover Star, loaded with engines and under charter to a Singapore-based company, is steaming to Dubai for repairs. The Greek Merchant Marine Ministry in Athens said the tanker was hit near the Iranian oil terminal on Kharg Island.

Baghdad radio claimed that Iraqi ships had attacked and destroyed two large "naval targets" in the same area.

The intruding vessels were discovered at dawn between Kharg Island and the Iranian port of Bushehr, 150 miles south-east of Iraq's southernmost point on the Gulf, the radio said.

The attack proved that Iraq had complete control over the northern reaches of the Gulf. Iraqi forces had "decisive superiority and ability to strike and destroy any naval target that may try to enter this zone by ignoring our warning".

Observer directors step in as slanging match continues

By Robin Young

The independent directors of *The Observer* are to hold a series of meetings next Tuesday in an attempt to resolve the continuing public dispute between the paper's editor, Mr Donald Treford, and its proprietor, Mr ("Tiny") Rowland over a report of atrocities in Zimbabwe.

Sir Derek Mitchell, governor of the independent directors, said that he had arranged for them to meet Mr Treford, Mr Rowland and journalists on *The Observer*. The journalists had earlier voted unanimously to support Mr Treford and demand an early meeting with the independent directors, who were appointed to safeguard editorial independence in 1981 when Mr Rowland's Lorrho company bought the paper.

In an exchange of letters yesterday Mr Rowland, chairman of Lorrho, accused Mr Treford of having obtained "nearly all" his story in Sunday's paper through "a very junior reporter from *The Sunday Times*". Mr Treford, in his reply, called the suggestion "ludicrous" and accused Mr

Rowland of publishing defamatory allegations against him. Mr Treford also rejected an invitation from the government of Zimbabwe to return to Matabeleland to show the evidence of beatings and killings in Matabeleland. He said that to return to his sources would endanger their lives.

Mr Rowland has already apologized for Mr Treford's story to Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, describing it as "discourteous, disingenuous and wrong".

The meeting of the chapel (office branch) of the National Union of Journalists was attended by 70 of the 92 members. It voted unanimously to support Mr Treford after hearing his explanation of the dispute.

The chapel is seeking legal advice about its position in case Mr Rowland tries to dismiss Mr Treford or to close the paper. The journalists claimed that Mr Rowland had himself approached the independent directors to sound out the

possibility of his dismissing Mr Treford. Mr Rowland's spokesman, Mr Paul Spicer, denied this charge, and another that Mr Rowland had threatened to close the paper in an attempt to prevent the publication of Mr Treford's story.

"We have never queried Mr Treford's right to write what he thinks," Mr Spicer said.

The following is the text of Mr Rowland's letter to Mr Treford:

Mr Dear Donald,

I want to make it absolutely clear that there is nothing personal in this. I have enjoyed your company and looked upon you as a friend.

You will agree that since we bought *The Observer* in July 1981, there have been only two Lorrho-appointed directors among a board of about 20.

We have borne the financial responsibility for the paper, during the period, and this is increasing.

No one has sought to influence the content of the paper, other than putting forward format and expansion plans for consideration.

There has been no breach of the undertaking given to the Secretary of State, as you have often

Continued on back page, col 2

Record profits for BR

British Rail reported an £8m group surplus and a £62m operating profit, the highest since its formation 22 years ago, and expects results to improve by a further £65m this year.

The chairman, Mr Bob Reid, attributed the improvement to a strike-free year, decentralized management, cost-cutting and a better service.

He predicted an effective competitive railway in the future, and said the State subsidy, to reduce by £250m to £630m over the next three years, was "reasonable".

The success of the Metro and Maestros models at home, and remarkable sales of Jaguar abroad, helped B.L. to an operating profit of £4.1m, compared with a £125m loss in 1982.

The figures pave the way for the privatization of this year of Jaguar. But Land-Rover lost £14m and commercial vehicle losses were £70m, because of depressed world markets.

BR profits, page 5

Business News, page 19



Empty street, loaded guns: St James's Square, sealed off after the Libyan People's Bureau shooting, during morning rush hour yesterday and, right, police marksmen on a roof overlooking the building.

Cigarette psychology in war of nerves on Libya Bureau terrorists

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The food, drink and cigarettes delivered to the door, the constant conversations on the telephone, the tall screens blocking off the street, and the carefully-worded statements of police and politicians are among some of the psychological tools being employed to help end the Libyan People's Bureau siege.

Scotland Yard has become expert through experience in bringing about the best conditions for ending such sieges without bloodshed. Consultant psychiatrists are on hand to advise police on how to interpret the actions and words of the terrorists and how to turn their physical and mental state to advantage.

A "working relationship" between the Libyans and the police was quickly established within hours of the shootings on Tuesday. Psychiatrists consider it vital to build a rapport in which the terrorists are encour-

aged to discuss ways out of the impasse other than through violence.

Although the police would make it clear that the only acceptable outcome would be the peaceful surrender of the gunmen, any signs of increasing tension within the Libyan building would rapidly be defused. Hence, requests for food and drink are promptly met. The amount of cigarettes requested can even be an indicator of the state of the gunmen's nerves.

The screens help concentrate the minds of the Libyans on their situation by blocking out sight of the normality of life in London. The state of mind of terrorists such as those involved in the IRA siege at Balcombe Street, London, in 1974, or at the Iranian Embassy in 1980 have been studied.

Tactics are modified according to circumstances. There are extra problems for police in this

siege because of the diplomatic status of some or all of those involved and because of consideration for British citizens in Libya.

Dr Peter Scott, a forensic psychiatrist who advised police at Balcombe Street and at the Spaghetti House siege, has listed priorities for the psychologists involved. They include discouraging resorting to violence, providing advice on the physical and emotional health of siege occupants and assisting police negotiators to pitch their conversations to best advantage.

Carefully-worded police statements are often meant to be heard by the gunmen. Yesterday, such phrases as "we have no plans to storm the building" and "we are working towards a satisfactory and hopefully bloodless solution" would have been open to interpretation by the Libyans as reassurances.

Building cost £2.6m

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The Libyan Government bought 5 St James's Square, a fine Georgian building, in 1977 for £2.6m. It acted directly, without agents, and purchased it from Knight Frank and Rutley on a long leasehold of more than 100 years.

The house was built about 1740, and after falling into disrepair after the Second World War, was extensively restored to its Georgian glory

before its sale to the Libyans. The most recent occasion when their property came into the public eye was when they submitted a planning application for extra security at their school in Glebe Place, Kensington, west London.

Permission was granted last week for the construction of metal railings on top of the wall round the school and of a flagstaff in the school grounds.



The flat blue cap of Woman Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher lying with the helmets of fellow officers at the spot where she was shot.

Warnings given to ministry

By Staff Reporters

The Libyan People's Bureau not only asked for Tuesday's hostile demonstration in St James's Square to be banned but gave a warning of possible consequences, as it does on most occasions.

The bureau also arranged for television coverage of the demonstration by UPTN, the television news agency which was contacted by Mr Salah Najm, the man who walked out of the bureau, hands raised, soon after the shooting on Tuesday.

Last night the question of whether the Libyan authorities had expected the sequence of events remained unanswered. The Libyan request was made at around midnight on Monday and rejected by the Home Office.

Mr Najm, who was detained by the police until yesterday, is the London correspondent of Libyan television. According to Mr John Conner, UPTN's editor, Mr Najm telephoned at about 9pm on Monday night. "We were told to send two camera crews

Gaddafi in charge by telephone

Continued from page 1

The green Libyan flag hung limply over the closed door of the Bureau, and relics of Tuesday's shooting lay scattered in the road.

WPC Fletcher's flat police cap could be seen in front of an array of disorganized crash barriers where she fell as the machine gunner opened fire. Around her cap were the helmets of colleagues who had rushed to her rescue.

Yesterday, police officers in dark blue flak jackets sheltered behind the thick stone of an office entrance opposite the Bureau. One used a slim black periscope to survey the silent Libyan building without showing himself. Above him, two floors up, men moved at a window in what is believed to be one of the forward posts of the police operation.

Earlier in the day, police had arrested a man dressed as an Arab and carrying an 18-inch machete who had tried to get through the police cordon. Anthony Kessler, aged 43, of Primrose Hill, north-west

London, was later remanded for medical reports at Bow Street magistrates' court.

Shortly after midday, police allowed a Libyan up to the Bureau door to deliver food, including halal lamb, fruit, spaghetti, eggs, detergents and cigarettes. During the day Sir Kenneth Newman, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, paid several visits to the command centre, 100 yards away in a side street.

Mr Brittan also visited the scene during the day.

The Libyan journalist left the Bureau on Tuesday after the shooting was interviewed by the police, and later released. He was named as Mr Salah Najm, London correspondent of Libyan television and had ordered the UPTN film coverage of the demonstration which sparked the shooting.

One of the 10 Libyan students wounded in the shooting was still in a serious condition in Westminster Hospital last night.

Leading article, page 13

Ban sought on 'political advertising'

By Hugh Clayton
Local Government Correspondent

The Government made it clear yesterday that it wants to ban what it sees as political advertising by Labour councils at ratepayers' expense. But it accepted that nothing can be done before next month's elections for more than 3,000 seats in 218 councils.

Ministers regarded the election as an important test of the popularity of their policies on local government. Elections will be held in all metropolitan districts in the counties for which the Government wants to abolish the county councils.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said at a press conference in London that there were two obstacles to curbing what ministers consider political advertising by Labour councillors, the refusal of district auditors to rule against it and a decision by the Greater London Council to appeal against a judgment about its subscription to the Association of London Authorities.

Industry threat nearer as miners' chiefs reconsider rules

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Sheffield

Miners' leaders are set to change their union rules to make it easier to mount a national strike, but an immediate pithead ballot looks unlikely.

As the "rolling stoppage" in the coal industry reaches the end of its sixth week, the left is guardedly confident of getting its way at a special delegate conference in Sheffield today.

If it does, there will be no early ballot to determine whether the 183,000 miners want an all-out official strike, but further - as yet unspecified - measures will be taken to bring the industry to a halt.

The conference takes place against an attitude of hardening militancy in Yorkshire, the coalfield where the stoppage started. Pitmen are defying the instructions of their area union leaders to supply 16,000 tonnes of coking coal to British Steel's plant at Scunthorpe, and 7,000 production workers there could be laid off soon.

The dispute is also beginning to affect the railway industry. Mr Bob Reid, British Rail's chairman, said the strike was

costing £4 to £5 million a week in lost revenue. This "serious threat" clearly put jobs at risk, he argued yesterday.

The TUC General Council had a report from Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, disclosing that the miners' union was still not asking for intervention or assistance from the TUC. Mr Murray is in regular contact with Mr Peter Heathfield, secretary of the miners' union, but no direct moves to get involved in the stoppage are expected.

That leaves today's delegate conference a free hand to determine the miners' next step, and as the delegates gathered in the city last night, it seemed probable that they will approve a rule change reducing the vote required for industrial action from 55 per cent to a simple majority.

The delegates are expected to give the necessary two-thirds support to a proposal from NUM national officials led by Mr Arthur Scargill, the union's president, but the vote on whether there should be a ballot could be close.

● A miner was punched in the face as he sat in his car while talking to pickets at the Hem Heath colliery in north Staffordshire yesterday.

The man stopped his car by the picket line and wound down the window to talk to pickets when he was punched. He was not seriously injured.

In a separate incident at the colliery, a miner's car window was smashed by a brick but no one was hurt.

● In Wales, 19 miners appeared in court after arrest on a "mass picket" line outside Port Talbot steel works two weeks ago. Eight were fined £15 for obstructing the highway.

Another six denied the charge, but agreed to be bound over for a year. Magistrates adjourned the case against five others.

● Fourteen flying pickets were arrested outside collieries in Nottinghamshire yesterday. In Essex, a number of pickets were arrested and a policeman was injured as pickets tried to stop imported coal from leaving the quayside at Wivenhoe near Colchester.

Teachers to reconsider discipline

Britain's third largest teaching union decided yesterday to take a fresh look at teachers' legal responsibility for the care of pupils.

In the face of more misbehaviour by children and the decision of some authorities to abolish the "can", the annual conference of the Assistant Masters' and Mistresses' Association in Bournemouth voted overwhelmingly to instruct its executive to consider whether teachers should continue to be in loco parentis.

The 90,000-member association also wants the Government to bring the legal responsibilities of parents into line with those in some other European countries where parents face the withdrawal of family benefit if children do not attend school or do not behave properly.

● Demand for higher education is likely to rise steadily until the end of the century, according to a Royal Statistical Society working party (Ngaio Crequer writes).

The society had been asked to judge between conflicting predictions.

Security inquiry into Bettaney case

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has referred the case of Michael Bettaney, the M15 spy, to the Security Commission, Downing Street said yesterday. Bettaney was jailed for 23 years at the Central Criminal Court on Monday after being convicted of 10 spying charges.

A Downing Street spokesman said: "After consulting the Chairman of the Security Commission, Lord Bridge of Harwich, and the Leader of the Opposition, the Prime Minister has decided that there should be a reference to the Security Commission to investigate the case of Michael John Bettaney and to advise on its implications for security arrangements."

Mrs Thatcher is expected to make a statement in the Commons on the case after the Security Commission investigation.

Inquiries by both the Security Commission and by M15 will concentrate on the failure of the positive vetting system to pick up Bettaney's transformation from a right-wing Roman Catholic to a pro-Soviet Marxist (Peter Hennessy writes).

Security methods operated inside M15's Curzon Street headquarters, in central London, which failed to prevent Bettaney taking a camera in and documents out, will also be examined.

Speculation that the head of M15 would be dismissed once the inquiries had been completed were discounted as "cloud cuckoo country" inside the intelligence community yesterday.

Vetting failure

The vetting of a scientist employed at the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment, which carries out research, failed to show that he was a transvestite. The Ministry of Defence admitted last night (our Worcester correspondent writes).

Earlier, an inquest at Worcester recorded a verdict of misadventure on Dr Dean, aged 49, who had been found at his home in St James's Drive, Malvern, Worcestershire, wearing women's clothes. He had been asphyxiated while sniffing chloroform and ether.

Name ban challenge adjourned

By Frances G...

The right of the National Union of Journalists to challenge a judge's ban on publication of a witness's name must go before a full court because of the unprecedented nature of the case, a High Court judge held.

Mr Justice McNeill ruled that the question of whether anyone could challenge an order made under the Contempt of Court Act 1981 would have to be decided by a two-judge court.

He adjourned an application by the NUJ, backed by the National Council for Civil Liberties, to challenge a banning order made by Judge Lyndberg QC in a kidnapping case at the Central Criminal Court earlier this year. He directed that a full hearing should take place before the end of July, with the Official Solicitor invited to make legal submissions.

Miss Barbara Cohen, NCCL legal officer, said afterwards: "Clearly the judge recognizes the importance of the issue. The problem is that there needs to be a forum in which journalists can challenge banning orders."

Sale room

Fragment of 'Egyptian plate' sold for £7,480

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Half a broken plate was sold for £7,480 (estimate £1,500 to £3,000) at Sotheby's yesterday. It is thought to have been made in Egypt in the tenth century during the brief Ikshidid period.

The sloping rim is decorated in lustre and the centre bears an inscription in kufic script about how good it is to trust in God. The base bears a signature which is not wholly legible but seems to read "Khalid". Sotheby's hoped that it did as it would connect the plate with two fragments in the Benaki Museum which bear this signature.

This was only one of the outstandingly high prices for Islamic pottery included in Sotheby's sale of Islamic works of art which proved overall more buoyant than last year. The sale totalled £359,486 with 25 per cent left unsold, the percentage reflecting two expensive carpets and one expensive pot unsold.

A large Safavid pottery dish

with stylized floral decoration carved through the blue ground to the white below, dating from the seventeenth century, sold for £18,700 (estimate £3,000 to £5,000) to ASIA, a London dealer.

A single star-shaped Persian tile with lustre decoration from the mid-thirteenth century secured £1,800 (estimate £1,200 to £1,800), while two green-glazed Syrian pottery stands made in Raqqa around 1200 sold for £8,250 and £7,700 (estimates £3,000 to £5,000 each).

Amongst the metalwork was a very battered beauty, a silver-inlaid bronze jug with a round body, scalloped foot and cylindrical neck at £13,200 (estimate £8,000 to £12,000). It has superb decoration of huntmen foliage and flowers but the neck now has a jagged broken edge and the handle does not belong. It dates from the fourteenth century.

Times micro winner

Mr Jeffrey Cooke was named yesterday as the winner of The Times National Microcomputer Challenge. His winning project, Acoustic Braille, is a system which enables blind people to operate a computer, using only four keys.

A series of tones allows the user to check his or her entry and to play back computer information. Mr Cooke had previously won the North and

Northern Ireland regional heats.

The competition, which asked competitors to develop a novel or socially useful idea with a microcomputer, gave second prize to Mr Robert Collins for a program to assist in the study of the education of retarded children. Joint third prizes went to Mr John Dingle for a program to help young motorcyclists avoid accidents and Mr R. W. Wills-Sanford with a microcomputer to help neighbourhood policemen.

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WINE BOX

Parents may be allowed majority of places on school governing bodies

By Colin Hughes

The Government is to consider introducing legislation which would give parents the right to a majority of places on school governing bodies.

The controversial step, which ministers see as the first stage of a general move towards a more independent system providing wider parental choice, is born out of the reaction to the idea of the voucher system which was shelved last year.

Education ministers, keen to generate greater parental involvement in school policy-making as "customers" of a service, believe that a radical shift in the power balance on governing bodies could be the answer.

They are also eager to topple the block domination which education authorities have maintained in public sector secondary schools, for example, local authorities appoint nine members of each governing body.

Usually three are elected members, appointed in proportion to the representation of parties on the local council. The others are "interested parties".

often members of the local dominant political party. The remaining groups are: two elected teachers, the head teacher, two special interest nominations who are often local industrialists, and two elected parents.

Giving parents a built-in majority carries considerable risks. Ministers see little point in handing them power without allowing them some control over school budgets, but that raises the problem of whom becomes responsible if the school is sued for providing inadequate and therefore illegal service.

Local authorities would need to retain some power to override certain decisions by governors, and as teachers' salaries from the bulk of education costs, the Government would be loath to surrender control of teacher numbers to parent-governors.

The view, however, is that the advantage gained by encouraging more parents to take part in deciding the school's direction outweighs the practical difficulties. It would be a political decision, intended to

"educate" parents towards a more independent schooling system.

In policy discussions, the voluntary-aided sector is most often cited as a model. Voluntary-aided schools are run independently, usually by a religious community, but occasionally by a company or trust, who put up part of the funds. The remaining costs are met by the local authority, but the education policy, within the bounds of statutory requirement, is decided by the governors.

Applications to run voluntary-aided schools are made to the local authority, which then makes a recommendation to the Secretary of State, with a right of appeal from the applicants.

In the long term it is envisaged that groups of parents, without the cohesive interests of a religious community or funds of a company, might establish trusts to run schools. Local authorities, however, would have more power than they do in the voluntary-aided sector to enforce or prevent specific spending.

ILEA sets cash bias for polys

By Karen Gold, of The Times Higher Education Supplement

The Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) is to introduce a system of financial discrimination in higher education, in favour of recruiting women, mature and unqualified students.

From the academic year 1984-85, it will reallocate, on a points system, £2m of its grant to its five polytechnics: one point each for every woman, unqualified student, part-time student and ILEA resident, and half a point for every mature student aged over 25.

Ethnic minorities will eventually be included but the

authority has not yet found a reliable way of counting them.

Points, worth about £48 each, are cumulative, so a woman aged 26 living in the ILEA area, on a part-time access course is worth 4.5 points, or £216.

Conventional students, suburban male school leavers, with two A levels on full-time courses, will be worth nothing extra.

The £2m is part of the additional money, about £15m in 1984, that the ILEA gives the polytechnics on top of their central government allocation. According to Mr Neil Fletcher,

the chairman of ILEA's further and higher education subcommittee, the points scheme would be used to distribute more of ILEA's grant in future.

"We think the system as it exists, is heavily weighted against certain groups in society, so it is clearly sensible and realistic to recognize ways we can benefit groups we think have a political right to access into a system which discriminates against them," he said.

The 1984-85 points allocations show that the City of London and Central London polytechnics, gain most.



Touch and see: Children from Logcabins play centre in north London in the Museum of Mankind yesterday. During the Easter holiday weekdays, between 10.45 am and 12.45 pm, children will be encouraged to explore the exhibits

Zola Budd withdraws from race

Zola Budd, the athlete from South Africa granted British citizenship two weeks ago, has withdrawn from a 1,500-metre race at Crawley, West Sussex, on Saturday.

It would have been her second British appearance. Crawley council had made it clear she would not be welcome. She still had more than a month to get the second race she wanted before the UK championships.

Crawley's Labour mayor, Mr Alf Pegler, said she would overshadow the opening of Crawley's new £300,000 track.

He did not wish to attack Miss Budd, but councillors deplored commercial exploitation of an athlete, and thought South Africa should conform to "accepted standards" so that its athletes could compete under their own banner.

Caution urged over allergy aid claims

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Patients and their children were yesterday warned to avoid commercial laboratories and clinics offering to diagnose food "allergies"; that can lead to difficult, disruptive and, in children, sometimes dangerous diets.

The warning came in a joint report from the Royal College of Physicians and the British Nutrition Foundation. Professor Maurice Lessof, Professor of Medicine at Guy's Hospital and chairman of the working party that produced the report, said many so-called allergies to food were in fact psychological rather than genuine intolerance of food or food additives.

Great anxieties have been aroused because of publicity given to unproven claims that food allergy was common and increasing, he said, and some "very doubtful" organizations and laboratories had been set up.

claiming, for example, to diagnose food allergy from a sample of hair. Some patients had delayed seeking medical advice after such "diagnoses", going on to highly restrictive diets to exclude certain foods or types of foods. In one case a patient who had gone on to such a diet had proved to have inoperable cancer by the time he sought medical advice.

The report acknowledged that food allergy does exist and says more research is needed in the area. Eczema, migraine, and some bowel conditions can be related to food intolerance, and some foods such as cow's milk, wheat, cheese, strawberries, eggs and coffee can produce reactions.

Food Intolerance and Food Aversion (Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place, London NW1 8J).

Severed arm man to sue

By Barbara Day

Mr Roy Tapping, the farmer who carried his left arm across fields after it was severed by a baling machine and had it sewn back in hospital, is making a claim for compensation against his former employer, Mr Richard Markham.

Mr Tapping, aged 33, of Bledlow, Buckinghamshire, said yesterday that he was recovering slowly.

On Tuesday, magistrates at Thame, Oxfordshire, found Mr Markham guilty on five summonses of failing to have safety guards on equipment at his farm in Henton, Oxfordshire. He pleaded not guilty and was fined £1,500 and ordered to pay £1,000 costs.

The two men have remained on good terms and both agree there is a possibility that Mr Tapping may return to his old job.

Olympics through the night on ITV

By David Hewson Arts Correspondent

The independent television companies yesterday announced a £5m plan to broadcast the Los Angeles Olympics throughout the night in the first shot in what promises to be a bout of bitter competition with the BBC for summer viewing figures.

The BBC does not intend to unveil its Olympic coverage plans until the last possible moment but a corporation spokesman said it would broadcast live every event of interest to British viewers. That was a clear indication that it, too, will have sports coverage around the clock.

Competition for Olympic audiences is proving so intense that the independent companies had considered running a Fleet Street-style bingo competition, with cards pushed through the doors of every household.

The idea, which originated at Thames, was discarded because it was believed that it would not be approved by the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

Whatever the corporation does to meet the independent companies' plans, the results will be costly to both channels. Broadcasting after midnight is normally avoided because of the huge overtime payments which have to be made to technical staff.

Mr John Bromley, head of sport at London Weekend Television and the official in charge of independent television's Olympic coverage, said the commercial stations had decided to broadcast throughout the night because of the high viewing figures for Torvill and Dean when they won the World Ice Skating Championship in the early hours.

Independent television will run about 160 hours of live coverage in its biggest sports project, running on the main commercial channel, Channel 4 and TV-am.

Taiwan firm invests in UK design

By Bill Johnstone Technology Correspondent

A new British-designed microcomputer for home, educational and business use, is to be made by the Taiwanese company Tatung at its television factory in Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

The new machine, called the Einstein, which was developed at the company's research laboratory in Bradford will begin production next month for delivery in early summer. About 50,000 will be manufactured before the end of the year but that number will double in a full production year.

The microcomputer, which will sell in the shops for just under £500 is meant to fill the gap, Tatung believes, between the home and the business market.

The planned expansion is the second big investment at the plant in the past three years. The first was the purchase and the re-equipping of the plant for modern television manufacture. More than £2m has been invested there since its purchase from Decca.

The microcomputer is to be made by some of the 750 staff employed on the television assembly, as the expansion reaches its 100,000 a year production target more jobs are expected to be created at the factory but at this stage no numbers have been disclosed.

Police plea at Weston inquest

Detective Chief Superintendent Len Bradley, who is leading the hunt for the killer of Mrs Janice Weston, a solicitor, yesterday renewed his appeal for public help. He told an inquest in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, that someone must know her sadistic killer.

Mrs Weston, aged 36, from Holland Park, West London, was a partner in the Lincoln's Inn solicitors, Charles Russell & Co. The inquest was told she was last seen alive there on a Saturday night last September. Police believe it was some time that night that she was

Council must pay for tree damage

A couple won the right in the High Court yesterday to be compensated for damage caused by tree roots to their former home at Spencer Drive, East Finchley, north London.

Mr Clive Russell and his wife Angela, sued the London Borough of Barnet for an estimated £55,000 for the consequences of structural damage by two oak trees during the hot, dry summer of 1976. They claimed that the trees in the road outside their former home sucked moisture from the soil under the house, causing the foundations to subside.

Mr Justice Tudor Evans ruled that the authority, which had denied liability, should

have foreseen the danger and taken steps to prevent it. At least pruned the trees but failed to do so because they did not think they were responsible for them, the judge said.

The council had argued that it was not responsible for the 175-year-old trees, planted before they or their predecessors held office.

The Russells who now live at Waverley Court, Steeles Road, Hampstead, north London, will have their claim for some £22,000 damages for the cost of repair work, plus £33,000 lost on the sale of the home, assessed at a later date.

Law Report, page 24

Leukaemia virus link to cause of AIDS claimed

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

A breakthrough in the search for a cause of the fatal disease AIDS may have been achieved, scientists said yesterday.

Researchers in the United States and France have tracked down a cancer virus which they believe causes the disease - acquired deficiency syndrome - which has killed 22 people in Britain and almost 2,000 in the US.

A team at the National Cancer Institute in the United States has found "persuasive

evidence" that AIDS is caused by human T-cell leukaemia virus (HTLV), elements of the immune system.

But reports of the breakthrough were described as "premature" by a spokeswoman for the Health and Human Services Department which runs the Institute.

"Proving the virus is connected with AIDS would be helpful but would only be a small step. Developing a vaccine would take years and years and years."

Roof fall man wins damages

A man whose attempt to help a neighbour put him in hospital with a broken leg and nearly broke up his marriage was awarded £9,500 damages in the High Court yesterday.

In January, 1980, while walking his dog near his home in Essex, south London, Mr John Murphy, now aged 44, came across a "distressed" neighbour, Mrs Amy Van Praagh, who had gone out to post a letter and locked herself and her young daughter out of her home, the court was told.

Mr Murphy climbed up a wooden trellis on to a pitched garage roof to try to get in through an open window.

He fell off and was in hospital for a month. He was left with his right leg shorter than the left and still suffers pain.

He had to give up his job as a dustman and his wife left him because of the strain. But he now works as a school caretaker. His wife returned after a month, and they have lived happily together since.

Mr Justice Popplewell said that Mrs Van Praagh, a teacher, had been persuasive in convincing Mr Murphy that it was safe to climb on to the roof.

Although Mr Murphy had acted "from the very best of motives" the judge said he had reduced the award by 25 per cent because it must have been clear to him that the roof was slippery. The damages are to be paid by Mrs Van Praagh, who had denied liability.



Mrs Weston: Killed in a lay-by

killed in a lay-by on the A1 near Huntingdon.

Mr Paul Rogers, deputy coroner for Huntingdon, backed the police appeal for help. The jury returned a verdict of unlawful killing.

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Too many Anglican clergy choose 'easy option' parishes, report says

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Too many Anglican clergymen are turning down "unpopular" parishes for bad reasons, according to a report published today. Preliminary Arthur Royall, clergy appointments adviser to the Archbishop of Canterbury and York, says the refusals are a "genuine cause for disquiet and unease."

Least popular parishes are those in northern or midlands industrial towns, especially inner city areas. Mr Royall said yesterday that 25 clergymen had to be approached before one could be found to fill a vacancy in a parish near South Shields and 19 of them did not even visit it.

A parish in Darlington, although middle class, tried 16 clergymen before it found one who would take it. A parish near Wolverhampton tried more than 20 men.

Suburban parishes in the

South East of England are among the most popular, he said. "I don't think more money would solve it. We have got to revitalize the whole concept of vocation," said Mr Royall.

In his report, he says the difficulties clearly indicate that some priests are exercising a wrong sort of choosiness, and in some cases are going for the pleasant option.

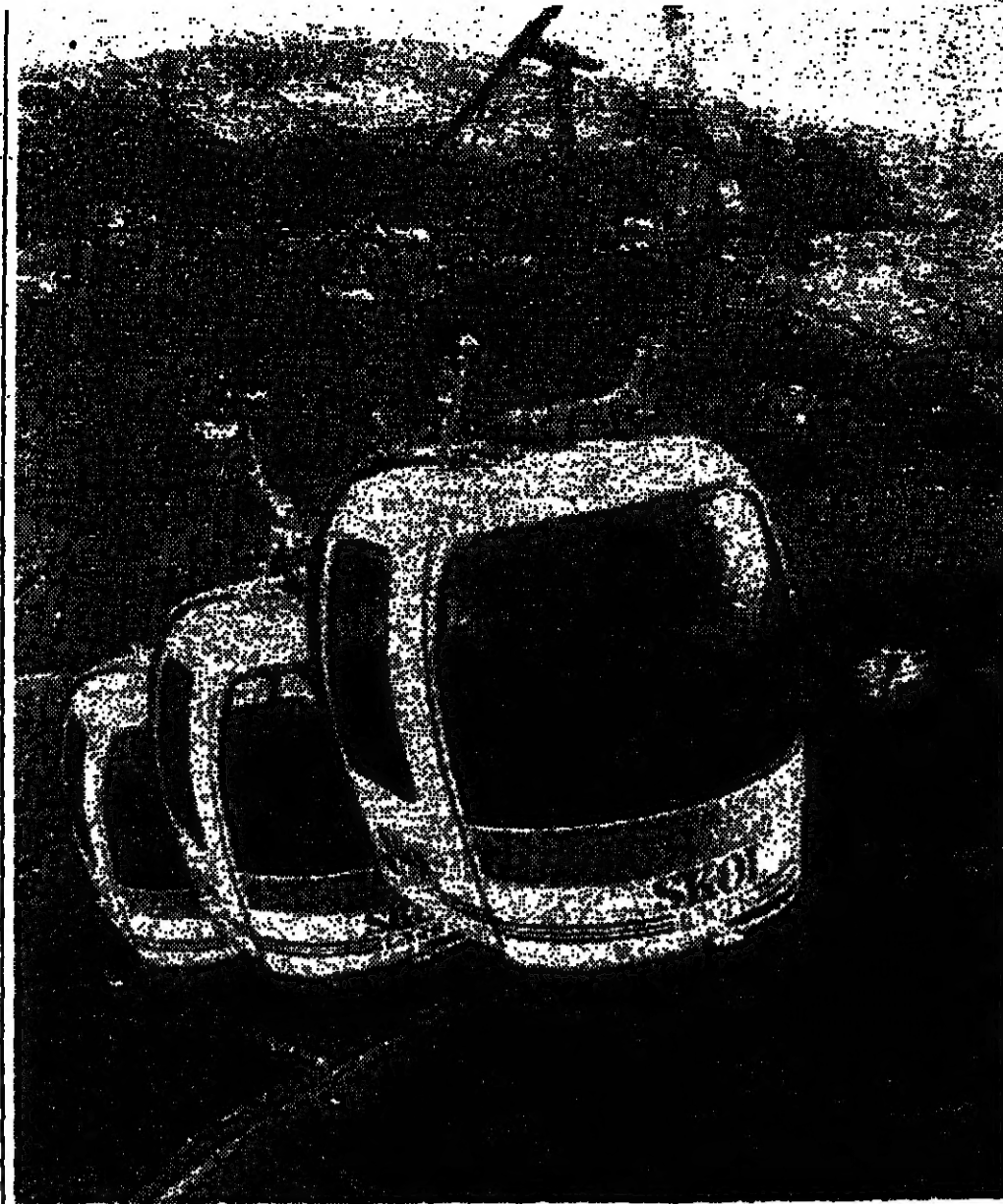
Among various reasons put forward for refusing an "unpopular" parish are that the clergyman wishes to live near his parents so they can see their grandchildren regularly; that the clergyman's wife is unwilling, perhaps because she has a job; or just "I am a southerner and could not adjust to living in the Midlands or the North."

Some clergymen, he said, refused to consider appointments simply because of the name of the place.

Mr Royall said that often the parish refused had a thriving church life and sometimes it was assumed to be working class just because it was in the North of England. Yet it was not so difficult to fill vacancies in working class parishes in London, at least when a clergyman's children were below secondary school age.

Other black spots for filling clergy appointments were Durham, Liverpool, Hull, Leicester and Manchester, he said. Multiple parishes in country areas, like Norfolk were also unpopular.

"In the Victorian age, people rose to the challenge," he said. "Today, young men are just as bad as the old. If you work in a parish you are expected to do five or six years in Teesside. We want men who say 'I'm ordained, and there's a job to do'."



Scenic way to the top

The first Alpine-style cable car system in Britain which has been launched at Matlock Bath, Derbyshire. Mr Andrew Pugh (right) has invested £1m in the French-built system and an ultra-modern visitors' centre at the Heights of Abraham.

The cars then accelerate away to the summit, where they are nudged into a bay to discharge their passengers.

The system, which opens to the public on Saturday, has been built in record time.

The architects, Derek Latham and Associates, say: "The philosophy was to extrapolate the Victorians' enjoyment of the day pleasure trip which made Matlock Bath so successful in the nineteenth century, into the present day family outing."



Police supersquads planned to fight traffic in drugs

From Our Correspondent, Preston

Britain's police chiefs admitted yesterday that they were not winning the war against dealers and are planning "supersquads" to help them to cope.

The trade in cocaine and heroin is on the increase and police and customs officers are only just managing to keep pace.

Detectives are having to look at ways of changing their strategy. That may mean setting up regional crime squads to combat the trafficking before it reaches unmanageable proportions.

Mr Peter Imbert, Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, said the epidemic was spreading from the cities into the towns and affecting more and more young people. He was speaking after chairing a three-day conference of the Association of Chief Police Officers at Hutton, near Preston, Lancashire.

"The tragedy of the situation is that over the last few years the age of the addicts is getting younger and the accessibility of drugs seems to be moving towards the younger person in society," he said. "We are not treating these people as the offenders any more but as the victims."

Police chiefs are hoping that the Government will push through new laws to allow the courts to confiscate drug dealers' profits.

Mr Imbert said: "If we take the profit out of the crime, there will not be so many people involved in it. The criminal has got no boundaries and we should not have any either. So

we have set up a working party to look into the idea of establishing nine regional drug squads, if we have the resources."

Seven chief constables, representatives of the Home Office and armed forces, customs officials and members of international drug agencies, were at the conference.

Mr Peter Cutting, head of the Customs and Excise Department Investigations Division, said: "I do not think we are winning the battle but we are not losing it; we are containing it."

● Drug abuse in Edinburgh has reached the stage where heroin is in prolific use in several districts of the city. Mr William Sutherland, Chief Constable of Lothian and Borders Police, says in his annual report, published yesterday (Ronald Faux writes): "Efforts to track down the dealers and suppliers in this 'evil trade' are being stepped up, he said."

Mr Sutherland reported that there was a serious involvement of the criminal fraternity in the market for "hard" drugs, including heroin, morphine and cocaine.

Large sums of money were readily available for financing drug deals and there was evidence that "customers" were turning to crime to raise the money to feed their addiction.

A survey of those arrested for theft or housebreaking in Edinburgh over a six-month period showed that over 34 per cent had links with drug abuse.

Labour may agree to Greenham missiles

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Leading members of the Shadow Cabinet believe that the Labour Party's commitment to Nato should be extended to all Nato bases - including the cruise missile base at Greenham Common.

There has been remarkably little hostility to Mr Neil Kinnock's view that a Labour government should and would scrap Polaris at the earliest opportunity.

It is known, however, that both Mr Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader, and Mr Denis Healey, the shadow foreign affairs spokesman, draw the line at American Nato bases.

Both feel that these must be maintained as part of the total British commitment to Nato. It is possible that this view is shared by most members of the Shadow Cabinet.

What has not been stated is that Greenham is regarded as part of that commitment and that as long as Nato requires cruise to be based there, the missiles might be retained under a Labour government.

The last Labour manifesto, in one of the party's clearest statements on the defence issue, said: "We will not permit the siting of cruise missiles in this country and will remove any that are already in place."

Mr Hattersley and Mr Healey have recently refused to speak about the defence issue. But it is understood that while Mr Hattersley has never felt bound to Polaris, he takes a strong line on Nato bases.

Mr Healey has taken a strong line on Polaris, but it is thought that as the system is nearing the end of its useful life, he could live with compromise so long as Nato bases were not rejected.

It is also thought that Mr Healey is sceptical about the long-term prospects for cruise, but while Nato wants them, the should remain.

● Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, said in a speech at Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, last night that government expenditure on missiles might be the central cause of distortion in defence spending.

PC allowed to sue over complaint

A policeman was yesterday given the go-ahead by a High Court judge to sue for libel over an official complaint made about him by a member of the public.

Mr Justice Hirst rejected a legal move to stop police constable Anthony Conerney suing Mr Timothy Jacklin, of Maypole Road, Tiptree, Essex. PC Conerney, of Howbridge Road, Witham, Essex, alleges he was libelled in a complaint against him, lodged by Mr Jacklin in January, 1980.

The complaint, accusing the officer of giving perjured evidence at a trial, was dismissed by the Police Complaints Board.

At a preliminary court hearing in London, it was argued on Mr Jacklin's behalf that the written complaint was protected by "public interest immunity".

Law Report, page 24

Zoo victim cremated

The body of Mr Mark Aitken, aged 22, the zoo keeper who was killed when an elephant crushed him against railings 10 days ago was cremated yesterday.

Staff at Mr John Aspinall's Port Lympne Zoo, where he worked, were given the day off to attend a funeral service at the village church in Biddenden, Kent.

Transplants up

The number of kidney transplants in Britain has risen by more than 60 per cent since the Government launched a campaign in February urging people to carry donor cards. Mr John Patten, junior health minister, said yesterday.

Zia bars London reunion for refugee's family

By Par Healy

The wife and four children of Mr Abdul Butt, aged 47, a Pakistani politician granted refugee status in Britain last November, have been prevented from leaving Pakistan to join him.

Mrs Aziz-un-Nisa Butt, aged 37, and her children Shazia, aged 13, Yasir, aged nine, Baber, aged five, and Faraz, aged three, were turned back at Islamabad airport by Pakistani officials. The local representative of the United Nations Commission for Refugees, who had arranged their passage, was told that the family had been blacklisted because of its connection with Mr Butt.

Mr Butt was an additional secretary-general of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party, which had organized a welcoming reception for the family at Heathrow airport. Mr

Butt was frequently detained in Pakistan after the military coup in July 1977, led by General Zia-ul-Haq, and he finally fled the country in 1980. He has been sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment in his absence.

Lord Avebury, the Liberal peer who took up Mr Butt's case after he had been initially excluded from Britain, said last night that it was revolting that the Pakistani regime was taking out its dislike of Mr Butt on his family.

"It is particularly repugnant that now Mr Butt is physically out of reach of the dictatorship that he should be tortured mentally through his closest family."

Lord Avebury is launching a new campaign to persuade the Pakistani authorities to allow the family to leave.

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Today, with 3 million more customers, gas is the long-established market leader. On latest figures, for example, it accounts for over three-quarters of all new central heating installations in Britain. It still has all its natural advantages, and much of the equipment available today is even more efficient. In addition, despite the price increases of recent years, gas is the best buy in the energy market in almost all applications. In fact, it is significantly cheaper today, in real terms, than it was twenty years ago.

As the cost of the gas it buys from the North Sea has increased, British Gas has successfully pruned its other costs to keep prices to customers highly competitive. Indeed, a recent consultants' report, jointly commissioned by the Government and British Gas, concluded that the Corporation had an impressive record over the last ten years in the efficient management of the industry. The battle continues to improve performance still more.

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Ask at your showroom for detailed information about any of these schemes.

Gas

WONDERFUEL VALUE AND HELPFUEL ADVICE - FROM THE GAS PEOPLE.

BR cheered as £175m loss turns to £8m surplus

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

British Rail emerged from years of gloom yesterday with record profits, after subsidy, and an optimistic view of the future. The railways achieved a group surplus of £8m last year, after a £175m loss in strike-torn 1982, and a £62m operating profit, the highest since BR was formed 25 years ago.

Mr Bob Reid, the career railwayman who took over from Sir Peter Parker as chairman last autumn, said results would improve by a further £65m this year, and predicted a competitive railway in the longer term.

In contrast to the railway lobby, Mr Reid refused to join in criticism of the Government's tough policies towards British Rail. The level of subsidy, due to go down by £250m to £630m over the next three years, was "reasonable", Mr Reid said.

He said the coal strike had reduced BR's revenue of £60m a week by only £4m - £5m, but he admitted that the freight business, which earned £530m of the board's £3200m in 1983, could run into "very serious problems" if it went on for a long time.

Meanwhile, having sent home a few staff who refused to move coal, BR was not considering further action. "We do not need to take out injunctions: the railway is running".

Mr Reid said passenger traffic was going up. It was back to within 2 per cent of pre-strike totals last year, and was already up a further 3 per cent this year.

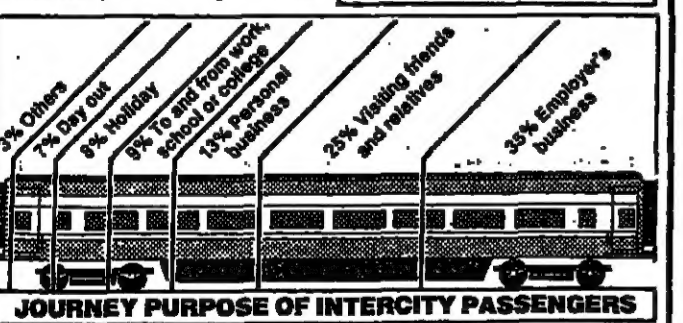
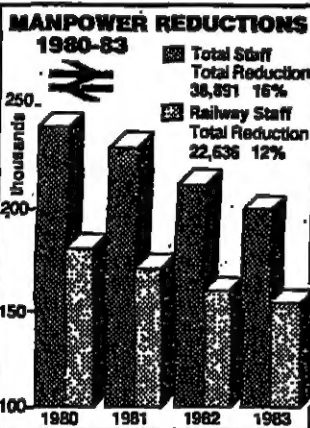
Investment was also rising. It would reach £330m this year, £50m up on last, and would average £380m a year to 1989.

Manpower was reduced by nearly 6,000, or five per cent, last year giving a reduction of 39,000 over three years.

He attributed BR's improvement to four factors: a year without strikes; decentralized management; continued success in getting costs down; and better service to the public. What they all boiled down to, he said, was a firmer grip by the board on the management of its own business.

Privatization was reaching the end of its first phase, with sale of hotels almost complete, negotiations for Sealink well under way, and half the main property gone. The next phase would be to examine private sector involvement in a number of services such as catering.

Individual business results were: Passenger, Traffic, at 695m



Advocacy campaign attacked

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Law Society's newly-launched campaign for advocacy rights in higher courts was attacked in the current issue of *Bar News*, the barristers' journal, as ill timed, badly reasoned and not in the public interest.

Demarcation disputes are always unattractive, and doubly so when between two branches of a profession "not noted for being on the breadline", an article in the journal says.

The public does not expect the legal profession to be "picking at the grisly carcass to see what they can get out of it" but "trying to give a better service to the public".

Advocacy in the higher courts by solicitors would not be cheaper, it would reduce the client's choice of advocate, from the entire Bar to those few operating in his solicitor's firm, and it would do nothing towards a "faster, cheaper, more efficient and more comprehensive service".

The result, the article says, would be that barristers would want access to the client - at present the preserve of solicitors - which would benefit the big commercial, international and civil chambers.

Tory MP wins libel case

Sir Frederick Bennett, Conservative MP for Torbay, won libel damages in the High Court yesterday arising from suggestions by his SDP Liberal opponent during the last general election campaign that he neglected his parliamentary duties.

Mr Charles Gray, counsel for Sir Frederick, told Mr Justice Michael Davies that as leader of the British parliamentary delegation to the Council of Europe, Sir Frederick was

inevitably required to spend time in Europe to attend to his duties there. But in an election pamphlet from his opponent, Mr Michael Mitchell, doubts were raised as to whether these European duties were the reason for his absences from Westminster.

Mr Mitchell has assured Sir Frederick he did not intend to raise any such doubts, and accepts there is no justification for any suggestion that he had been neglecting his duties.

High-tech venture in Scotland

By Bill Johnston, Technology Correspondent

A £15m venture in high technology, which will create 350 jobs in five years with the aid of a £4.2m government grant, is to be set up on Scotland's east coast.

The company, which will manufacture semiconductors, is a big departure for Scotland whose agencies have been successful in attracting investment from established multinational semiconductor companies.

Investors in Industry, which holds 20 per cent stake in the new company, Integrated Power Semiconductors for a £1.3m investment, said: "This will be the first start-up of a fully independent semiconductor company in recent history. It will be based in Scotland due to the available resources and skilled manpower".

The founding management team, eight Americans and one European, will hold 30 per cent share in the company. The remainder will be held by a consortium which will provide the initial £4.5m required by the new venture.

The next 18 months will be spent in building and equipping the plant in Livingston, near Edinburgh.



Look alikes: Actor Albert Finney (left) who plays the Pope (right) in a CBS Television film being shown in the United States on Easter Sunday.

Seoul police in running battle with students

Seoul (Reuters) - About 170 riot police were injured in Seoul's worst anti-government student demonstration this year.

The battle outside Korea University involved 1,500 students and stopped traffic for four hours on Tuesday. A spokesman said 21 police were admitted to hospital. About 10 students were injured.

Windows of a police station were smashed and a police van spraying tear-gas was badly damaged by stone-throwing students who were finally driven back to the campus where they adopted a resolution pledging to continue their fight against President Chun Doo Hwan's government.

China chips in with fast food

Peking (AP) - China unveiled its first Western-style fast food restaurant yesterday. State-owned, it features hamburgers, hot dogs and chips.

Dozens of guests invited from the Peking Municipal Food Service Bureau and other local restaurants and Communist Party dignitaries jammed the dining area for the official opening.

Their eagerness seemed to dispel fears that fast food would not agree with the Peking palate.

After 13 years of postponements...

At last, a Comecon summit?

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

In the West, one can afford to be blasé. European Community summits come and go with the predictability of soap opera: tears are shed, doors are slammed but the heroes and heroines live on to fight again, six months hence, in Athens or Amsterdam.

In the East, the game is played differently and the result is that Comecon, the Communist trading block, has not had a full-scale summit for 13 years. Fear of failure, of outright dissension, of exposing the physical debility of Soviet leaders - all these paralyse and inhibit the block at a time when economic problems are looming large. Despite a common commitment to Marxism-Leninism and the dominance of Soviet economic power, it is proving almost impossible to develop a concerted strategy.

Now it seems that a Comecon summit is just around the corner. Some East European experts (admittedly the same ones that thought the summit would be held at the latest in the winter of 1983) believe that it could be held in June, "the last procedural problems having been removed" during the recent visit to Warsaw of the Bulgarian party leader, Mr Tudor Zhivkov.

The central problem is how to stimulate growth which is at best stagnant in all the economies of the block, from the huge centrally planned sprawl of the Soviet Union to the small market-oriented system

These are some of the problems facing the Sherpas preparing for the ascent of the Comecon summit.

● The Soviet Union is unhappy about the quality of goods it is receiving from Eastern Europe. This was clearly stated by Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Soviet Prime Minister, at a Comecon session in East Berlin last October. The suspicion, and often the fact, is that countries like Hungary, East Germany and Poland want to sell their high-quality products to the West to ease their hard currency problems rather

● The more radical thinkers in Eastern Europe say this is not so much a quality problem as one of currency. Trade between Comecon states is at present conducted in a fictional currency known as the Transferable Rouble (the TR). Romania sells shoes to Poland and receives a quantity of TRs. This is a kind of credit allowing Romania to buy an equivalent amount of Polish Fiat or whatever from Warsaw. No real money changes hands. But what if Romania does not want anything that Poland is producing? And what happens when some Socialist countries try to offload out-of-date clothing or low-quality goods on their partners simply to clear the Transferable Rouble account? Quality plunges and intra-block trade languishes.

● The system is further undermined by hard currency trans-

actions. Hungary can demand dollars for its grain sold in the block and the Soviet Union partially demands dollars for extra deliveries of oil. This, coupled with other hard currency assistance, means that Poland runs both a Transferable Rouble and a dollar deficit with Moscow.

● Many East European countries complain that, having predicted their growth on low-cost Soviet oil, they are being squeezed more and more by lower deliveries or higher prices.

The Soviet Union argues that it loses large amounts of hard currency earnings by subsidizing oil and other energy deliveries to Comecon.

The lobbying for a summit is most intense in those countries embarking on reform programmes - especially Poland and Bulgaria - although Hungary seems to fear that a Comecon session could prove costly. Poland would like the blessing of Mr Konstantin Chernenko for its reform, a blessing that was implicitly given by the late leader Mr Yuri Andropov although it was never delivered at a summit. Romania continues to believe that a summit is a waste of time. East Germany and Czechoslovakia see the logic of the reformers - a long term strategy taking in all the changes of the past 13 years (the revolution in microcomputers and data processing, for example) should be formulated.

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£1,400m hole in the budget

EEC wants £280m loan from UK to meet Community debt

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Britain is being asked to lend the EEC £280m to help the Community to pay its debts later this year. The money would be its share towards filling an estimated £1,400m "hole" in the 1984 budget caused largely by the cost of supporting the common agricultural policy (CAP).

The extra money will be needed no later than October 20 if the Community is not to default on at least part of its debts. But if the loan is ever to be raised, Britain will have to be either given satisfaction by a long-term budget deal from the Community or somehow shamed into making its contribution.

The idea of the loan was floated yesterday by the European Commission to give member states time to mull it over during the Easter break.

If all went according to the Commission's plan, the European Parliament would nod the scheme through during its session next month, the Council of Ministers would give it the go-ahead by June, and a rectifying budget would be voted through the newly elected Parliament in September - just in time for the cash to be available.

But the plan is at risk because

WHAT EACH WOULD PAY

| | % | Approx in £m |
|--------------|-------|--------------|
| West Germany | 28.75 | 403 |
| France | 22.78 | 320 |
| Britain | 20.04 | 280 |
| Italy | 15.32 | 214 |
| Holland | 4.98 | 70 |
| Belgium | 3.45 | 48 |
| Denmark | 1.59 | 22 |
| Greece | 1.58 | 22 |
| Ireland | 0.86 | 12 |
| Luxembourg | 0.25 | 3 |
| Total | 100 | 1,400 |

it requires the unanimous approval of member states. Britain is scarcely likely to help bail the Community out if its own argument over its budget contribution is not settled first - especially as the overspend is in large measure due to paying for agriculture.

Mr Michael Jopling, the British Agriculture Minister, took the precaution of writing into the minutes of the last farm council that Britain expected the Community to stay within its estimated CAP budget of £10,000m for this year. This was a clear warning that, in agreeing to the latest farm price and reform package, Britain did

not mean to spend any extra money to support it.

For its part the Commission holds Britain jointly responsible for the financial consequences of the farm deal. Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the budget commissioner, said yesterday that since all member states participated in the agreement "a proposal of this sort ought to receive the assent of all member states."

The Commission's plan for raising the extra money is probably the only one that would not involve asking permission from the parliaments of the member states. Essentially it means that every country would be asked to contribute a share equivalent to the proportion it pays of the EEC's value-added tax revenue.

This would be a loan raised by the central banks and would be repaid in eight equal six-monthly instalments, complete with interest, starting in June 1986. By then - if there were agreement on reforming the budget - the Community would have an extra £6,000m a year to call on.

According to Mr Tugendhat, member states should look on the loan as nothing more than an investment in the future.

Prince too quick on paint-spray trigger

By Our Foreign Staff

Prince Andrew got a first hand look on Tuesday at Los Angeles' famous black ghetto of Watts - and sprayed white paint over the accompanying photographers.

It was uncertain whether the 24-year-old prince squirted the paint accidentally or as a joke at the photographers. However, the water based paint fired from a can landed on photographer Alan Davidson of the Daily Mail, on two of his cameras and on the lens of a BBC Television camera.

Bob Grevenburg, one of the photographers, said the Prince tested the spray equipment on the ground in front of him then leveled it at the cameras. "It was a dumb joke", Mr Grevenburg said. He estimated it might cost \$500 to repair the lens of his video camera. Six photographers, five of them Americans, said their equipment received a misting of white paint droplets.

"He did not do it deliberately", the British Vice-Consul, Mr John Houlton, said. "It was an accident. He did not realize so many people were involved. He was not familiar with this kind of spray paint equipment."

He added: "The spray can slipped around in his hand and he sprayed himself and others." Prince Andrew was handed a piece of newspaper and was still wiping paint from his hand



Do-it-yourself: Prince Andrew with the paint-spray which splattered the cameras.

when he visited the home of a Watts resident, Miss Pat Jackson. She said he used her bathroom to remove paint from his hand. She described him as "excited about all the photographers."

Earlier on the second day of his four day private visit to Southern California he visited MGM studios and the set of the currently shooting picture

2010, a sequel to the Stanley Kubrick picture 2001 A Space Odyssey.

At a brief and impromptu press conference after the visit he was asked what he thought of his sexy image as portrayed in the press. "No comment" he replied primly. When asked whether he would like to be a film star he responded with a succinct "No".

Glomp's Easter plea for goodwill

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

In an Easter message to be read in all Polish churches, the Primate, Cardinal Jozef Glomp, has denounced unnecessary suffering in prisons and factories and called on Poles to combat their unhappiness with kindness to one another.

The Primate concentrated on the spiritual meaning of the suffering on the Cross and said such suffering should also release goodness and charity rather than suspicion and resentment. But he also made a few nods in the direction of those Solidarity supporters who are complaining of a new wave of repression and of ill-treatment of political prisoners.

"We should remember that suffering is not a goal in itself and therefore that Man has the right to defend himself against it to avoid it, to protect himself. Without a serious reason we should not make anyone suffer, including ourselves. Let us look at our social and personal lives - a lot of suffering is imposed in such institutions as prisons."

But there was also suffering, the Primate said, "in normal workplace and places of education, where resentment, suspicion, makes men aggressive or resentful towards each other. The feeling of threat or insecurity that comes from being sacked from work or being slandered is causing serious suffering."

The Cardinal said Poles had the right to ask why such suffering was being imposed on them, and they were not receiving adequate answers. That was a clue as to why he came to criticizing the Government openly, although he did refer to our "our generation suffering, tired... cherishing its right to the cross."

The church has only recently managed to resolve a month-long dispute called the "war of the crosses", which followed removal by officials of crucifixes from classrooms. There are indications that the authorities are still removing crucifixes from schools, despite the church assertions that children have the "right to the cross."

Cardinal Glomp concluded his message by calling for more good will for Poles to carry out "at least one good or charitable act" wherever they may be, "in a hospital, in a prison, in an office, in a factory or family."

May Day warning: The Polish authorities said yesterday that demonstrations in support of Solidarity on May Day would be met with "decisive counteractions" - the usual euphemism for the full armoury of riot police.

The warning came in a communique issued after a meeting of the Communist Party's ruling politburo and was published in all major official newspapers. In the past two years the Solidarity underground has organized demonstrations in parallel to the official Communist Party celebrations of the workers' holidays. In May 1982 the authorities were too shocked to react - though they quashed demonstrations two days later - but in May last year they managed to prevent the spread of the Solidarity demonstrations by deploying Poland's tough Zomo riot police units. If there are demonstrations this year, the communique said, they "will meet both the resistance of the working people and with decisive counteractions of the competent organs of public order."

Drive for safer roads in Europe

From Our Correspondent, Brussels

Every year some 50,000 people die and another million are injured on roads in the EEC. These are the sort of casualties which might be expected in wartime; and the European Commission has set about trying to organize a Community-wide road safety programme to reduce the toll of the roads.

The Commission has an ulterior motive as well. Road accidents cost the Community something in excess of 2 per cent of the wealth it produces.

"Harmonizing" road safety rules and manufacturing standards is thus seen as a way not only of reducing the number of accidents but of helping the Community to open up the internal frontiers, which are making it so difficult to achieve a real common market.

The Commission programme in general outline has been passed forward to the Council of Ministers in the hope of creating an overall strategy to tackle the problem before the end of this year, with detailed urgent measures to be put forward next year.

One likely recommendation would be to confine compulsory vehicle testing to government-staffed centres, as already happens in some Community countries. Traffic lights, crash barriers and health checks on drivers should all be made standard.

The Commission's ideas were foreshadowed in a report passed last month by the European Parliament. This also called for the scrapping of all motorway tolls as one way of encouraging drivers not to use more dangerous back roads.

Rival Sikh factions fuel fears of more violence

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Tension continued to grow in the trouble-torn Indian state of Punjab yesterday as more armed Sikh warriors crowded into the Golden Temple of Amritsar to protect their leader against a threatened attack from his rival holy man.

Followers of the leader of the Akali Dal, the Immortal Party, which is controlling the Sikh agitation, fear that Sant Harmandir Singh Longowal and his associates may be in danger from the more militant followers of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

Outside the temple, the most sacred place of worship in the Sikh religion, the death toll continued to mount. Three part-time soldiers were killed when rebels opened fire at a railway station they were guarding.

But the Punjab capital of Chandigarh ground to a halt yesterday as Hindus enforced a *bandh* (general strike) in the city to protest against the assassination of a right-wing Hindu, Mr Inder Pal Gupta, the city leader of the Hindu Self-Defence Society, died when a party of Sikhs on a scooter threw a grenade into his shop. Seven other people were hurt.

The body of a woman, thought to be the assassin, whose confession inspired the round of killings, was found covered with burns, indicating that she was tortured before being stangled.

In Patiala, a night curfew is being enforced until Saturday to try to cool passions after the arrest of Sant Bhindranwale's brother on a technical offence. He refused bail, and the authorities feared a severe

reaction. The Sant himself has been charged with threatening the life of the Chief Minister in near by (Hindu) Haryana.

The *bandh* was enforced by hundreds of angry Hindus meaning the city would be without shops and compelling shopkeepers to close. The central police reserve force manned key points in the town but unable to prevent some buses from being stoned as they defied the *bandh*. The dead man's funeral procession was led by hijacked buses, and other vehicles were burnt along the way. Sikh-owned shops had their windows broken.

In Amritsar, the followers of Sant Bhindranwale have named the secretary of the Akali Dal, Mr Gurcharan Singh, as being implicated in the murder of one of the Sant's close associates at the weekend. The death led to a round of bitter revenge killings, and the supporters of the more moderate akalis fear that an attack on their secretary could threaten the whole of the party hierarchy. Sant Bhindranwale has given him 24 hours to get out of the temple.

Yesterday, a debate on the Punjab issue was held in the Lok Sabha, during which the Home Minister, Mr P C Sethi, was expected to lay out more fully than hitherto the Government's policy. Mr Sethi did, however, confirm many people's darkest suspicions when he disclosed earlier in the day that 11 Parkistani spies had been arrested in Punjab during the 12 months between January 1 and December 31 last year.

He declined to go into further details, pleading that it was not in the country's interest.

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US proposal on chemical weapons curbs fails to impress Russia

From Our Correspondent, Geneva



Mr Issraelyan: Peaceful rhetoric not enough

The United States yesterday formally tabled a much-heralded plan for banning chemical weapons which would oblige the Soviet Union and other states to agree to open their military or government plants to foreign inspectors at 48 hours notice to prove they were not cheating.

Vice-President Bush presented to the 40-nation Geneva disarmament conference a draft treaty which would forbid states in use, possess, produce, import or export chemical arms, and commit them to destroying existing stocks and production plants.

Under the pact's rigorous verification provisions, international inspectors would witness destruction of stockpiles and plants, and check commercial production of certain chemicals to ensure they were not diverted for arms purposes.

The 14-article draft also contained what Mr Bush described as an unprecedented proposal for verification by "open invitation" under which all states would agree to allow, at short notice, visits by inspectors to any plant or site owned or controlled by the military or government. This would make it easier to detect violations of the treaty and collect evidence for appropriate international responses, Mr Bush said.

The draft text was based on a

paper setting out US views on a chemical arms ban which Mr Bush submitted in February last year to the Geneva conference, which brings together all five nuclear powers and member states of the two European military pacts plus neutral and non-aligned nations.

Verification problems, enhanced by the difficulty of distinguishing between chemicals and industrial processes, are being used for industrial or military purposes, have been the main obstacle to progress on a ban, which has been under discussion in Geneva in different forms for more than 15 years.

Mr Bush told a news conference that America's open invitation procedure was aimed at permitting careful, on-site

examination, and providing the key to effective verification which would settle doubts about possible treaty breaches.

The US proposals go far beyond Soviet concepts, which are generally against mandatory inspection and favour a "quota" system, with countries retaining the right to refuse to admit foreign inspectors if they feel their visit is unjustified.

But Moscow made a concession last February when it agreed to allow continuous international inspection at sites where chemical weapons were being destroyed. Mr Bush described this as encouraging and said he hoped the Soviet delegation in Geneva would study the US draft seriously. In a reference to recent Russian criticism of the plan, he said he was saddened by statements that tabling of the treaty was merely a political move.

The chief Soviet negotiator, Mr Viktor Issraelyan, said his delegation would study the draft "as we study all documents submitted by any delegation". Without going into the substance of Mr Bush's speech, Mr Issraelyan said that "peaceful rhetoric is not enough". What was needed were deeds demonstrating the intention of conducting business with the Soviet Union on the basis of equality and equal security.

Leading article, page 13



'Now, Sir Geoffrey...': Mr Deng Xiaoping during his talk with the Foreign Secretary.

Howe gets on well with China's Deng

From David Bonavia, Hongkong

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, had an hour and a half of talks in Peking yesterday on Hongkong with Mr Deng Xiaoping, the elder statesman and effective leader of China.

Sir Geoffrey plans to talk to prominent officials and public figures here, and give a press conference on Friday, before taking a day's rest in Okinawa and then flying on to South Korea and Japan.

The Foreign Secretary's talks with the Chinese have been

described by British sources as "friendly, serious and productive". London and Peking are thought to see eye-to-eye on the broad issue of Hongkong's future, though some important matters remain to be settled.

The future nationality of Chinese people holding "Hongkong Dependent Territory" passports may be one of them. Another is likely to be the fostering of democratic or pseudo-democratic institutions in Hongkong in advance of the Chinese resumption of sovereignty in 1997.

The unofficial members of

the Hongkong Legislative Council, who are appointed by the Governor, have recently demanded that any Anglo-Chinese agreement be debated by them before it is formalized. Peking is known to be hostile to this suggestion, as it considers the people of Hongkong to be "compatriots" whose interests are best represented by itself.

This attitude is widely felt to be unreasonable, but there is little chance of London's standing out for a plebiscite.

The length of Mr Deng's talk with Sir Geoffrey - 1 hr

40 min altogether - is regarded as a sign that the two statesmen got on well together, though there were certainly areas of disagreement.

China has marked September as a deadline beyond which it will announce its own formula for a settlement. This includes half a century of capitalism and British-style laws for Hongkong from 1997 on, with the proviso that Britain concede sovereignty over Hongkong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories, acquired from China in the nineteenth century.

Thatcher's Lisbon rebuke for exporters

From Richard Wigg, Lisbon

The Prime Minister yesterday told British businessmen exporting to Portugal: "You have not been doing well enough."

Speaking at a lunch given by the Anglo-Portuguese Chamber of Commerce here, Mrs Thatcher recommended the "old recipe" for once they join the European Community. They must offer, she said, efficient production, value for money, and deliver on time.

Mrs Thatcher rejected requests from the businessmen at a question and answer session after for various kinds of special attention.

British exports to Portugal slipped in 1983 for the first time in many years, leaving a deficit in Portugal's favour of more than £60m on the first 11 months.

Mrs Thatcher praised Dr Mario Soares, Portugal's Socialist Prime Minister, for seeking with austerity measures to put Portugal's finances in order, and seeking to follow the British Government's example of steadily reducing inflation.

Dr Soares, during his talks with the Prime Minister, has taken the line that French, United States and West German companies have been much more aggressive in Portugal, and yesterday Mrs Thatcher endorsed his plea for stepped-up British investment in Portugal.

Gromyko accuses Reagan of dishonesty on arms

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

On the eve of a new Western proposal aimed at breaking the deadlock of Vienna's 10-year-old mutual and balanced force reduction talks, Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, accused America of dishonesty, and lack of seriousness in its approach to arms agreements.

Speaking in Budapest on Tuesday night, Mr Gromyko went on to denounce the United States call for an agreement on chemical weapons as a dishonest trick.

Further up the Danube in Vienna, as the final touches were being put to NATO's new proposal on reducing the numbers of conventional forces in central Europe, one high-ranking member of the Eastern delegation to the talks expressed disappointment that the proposal was expected to deal only with numbers of troops - the so-called data problem.

The new proposal, which will

be formally presented today has been described by NATO spokesmen as a major effort. It is expected to concentrate on reductions of combat units rather than combat and support units, so allowing an escape from the impasse of the East's refusal to concede that it has some 60,000 more troops stationed in central Europe than it officially admits.

But while any attempt to break the notorious inertia of these talks was being welcomed today, one NATO spokesman was reluctant to suggest that the proposal would mean a breakthrough in the talks. The West Germans, in particular, are known to be worried that concentrating solely on the data problems will result only in the East cynically dismissing the new proposal as an American attempt to improve East-West relations during an election year.

French deal on Catholic education

Paris (Reuters) - The French Government yesterday approved a controversial draft law aimed at bringing the country's mainly Roman Catholic private schools under closer state supervision.

The official spokesman, Mr Max Gallo, told reporters after a weekly Cabinet meeting that the Bill represented a compromise, which the Government believed would be acceptable to the majority.

But political sources said the National Assembly was expected to table a series of amendments when it debates the plan next month.

The ruling Socialists modified their original goal of an integrated, secular school system under pressure from a powerful Roman Catholic lobby that has organized huge protest marches backed by opposition politicians.

Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, Archbishop of Paris, gave powerful backing to opponents of the Bill on Tuesday when he declared he was firmly against any process which would imperil the identity of the Roman Catholic education system.

Mr Gallo said yesterday that the draft law represented an effort by the Government to achieve a balance between the various viewpoints. "It is clear this balance will not satisfy all the parties... this is inevitable... but the Government hopes and is convinced that it will be acceptable to the great majority of French people."

State school campaigners have said the reforms did not go far enough to reduce the influence of the church.

Cambodian rebels deny loss of HQ

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

One of the anti-Vietnamese groups in Cambodia claims to be still holding its military and administrative headquarters which earlier were reported to have been overrun by Vietnamese forces.

A senior official of the non-communist Khmer People's Liberation Front (KPNLF) said in Bangkok that the headquarters at Ampil had not fallen.

A new defensive line had been established about one mile east of Ampil, the official said, and the Vietnamese were being held there. He admitted that all 42,000 civilians who had been living at Ampil had fled into Thailand. He would not say how many guerrillas were resisting the Vietnamese, but they are believed to number not more than 500.

The KPNLF official said at least 100 Vietnamese soldiers had been killed since they began their assault on Ampil last Sunday. Resistance losses were 25 killed and 50 wounded.

He said the Vietnamese had used artillery mortars and rockets in the attack but no tanks. The infantry had advanced in "wave after wave". Artillery and mortars had destroyed about 100 houses and school buildings in the civilian camp.

● Hanoi accused: Khmer Rouge guerrillas accused Vietnam of killing 92 people with toxic chemicals in Battambang province between March 31 and April 4 (Reuters reports).

No-fee law threatens Malta church schools

From Our Correspondent, Valletta

Malta's Parliament yesterday passed a Bill making all schools free. The measure, an amendment to the Education Act, affects church schools.

Mr Dom Mintoff, the Prime Minister, had threatened to take over church schools if they did not undertake to provide free tuition.

Yesterday's law says that from next academic year, beginning in September, private schools will continue to be run by the people now running them, provided no fees are charged. This will be done in accordance with conditions

stipulated in a licence, which the schools have to obtain annually from the Government. The Bill was passed after the failure of talks between the Government and the Vatican.

The church in Malta has offered free education in its schools for all those children whose parents cannot pay for it, but has repeatedly said it cannot afford to run all its schools free of charge.

The leader of the opposition Nationalist Party, Dr Eddie Fenech Adam, has pledged to resist the law both within Parliament and without.

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Mitterrand close to open split with Communists over economy

From Our Correspondent, Paris

Sniping between the Socialists and Communists in President Mitterrand's Government came close to open warfare yesterday. M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, is to seek a vote of confidence in the national Assembly today, as part of his campaign to "clarify" the Communists' position.

M. Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, has refused unconditional support, however. In characteristically aggressive mood he told a crowded press conference in Paris yesterday: "We have listened to the Prime Minister's discourse. Now our group will discuss and consider our decision."

With an overall majority of about 47 in the assembly - not counting the 43 Communists and 20-odd members of other left-wing parties - the Socialists seem sure to win the vote on their general policies, the size of their majority will, however, be crucial in determining just how far they can move away from their 1981 policies of reviving the economy and cutting unemployment by priming the economic pump with deficit spending and creation of more jobs in the public sector.

The Communists have outspokenly criticized what they brand as M. Mitterrand's move to the right and abandonment of the principles upon which he and his Government came to power.

The Socialists, in turn, have declared that they are no longer

willing to tolerate the Communists' remaining in government while attacking it from outside. In a transparent attempt to separate them from the party at large, M. Mauroy has gone out of his way to praise the four Communist ministers, saying that they have distinguished themselves with their hard work and loyalty.

In today's vote the worst that the Communists are likely to do is abstain. That would be a crushing moral defeat for the Socialist majority - and a probable signal that the Communist-dominated CGT trade union federation, the most powerful in France, would use its muscle to fight planned cuts in the coal and steel industries and in such privately owned concerns as the Peugeot-Citroen car firm and the Michelin rubber factories.

The Communists are treading warily, however, worried by a slump in their popularity. In the 1982 elections they had about 21 per cent of the vote; by 1981 that support had fallen to 16.17 per cent in the first round of voting - and 6.98 per cent in the second.

Yesterday, they suffered another blow, when the Council of State ruled that there must be new elections in two municipalities won for the Communists in 1983. Houilles (Yvelines) and Thionville (Moselle). The council found that in both towns there had been electoral irregularities.

Long Island town makes peace with the Kremlin

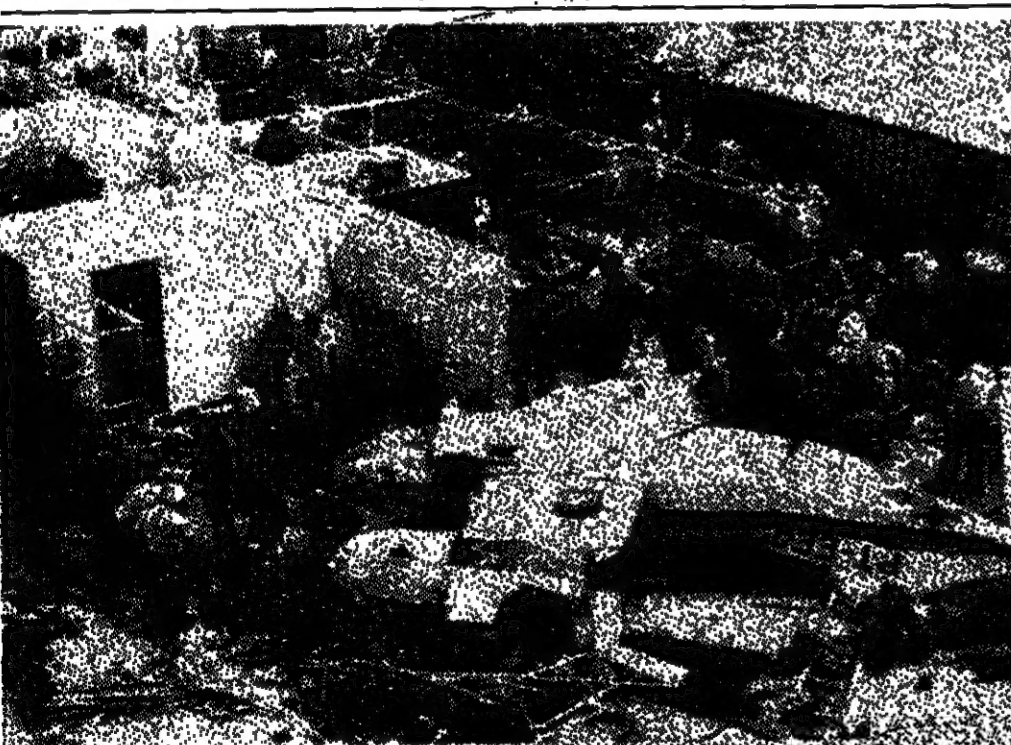
Glen Cove, New York - The mayor and the leader of the council majority agreed yesterday to lift this Long Island town's two-year ban on the use of municipal recreational areas by Soviet diplomatic staff.

If, as expected, the full council follows their recommendation at a meeting next Tuesday, it would bring an end to a local dispute that pitted this town of 24,000 against the State Department and the Justice Department.

Fewer than a dozen Soviet diplomats live permanently at Killenworth.

The lifting of the ban is part of a compromise worked out over the last three months by Glen Cove officials, the two government departments, and Soviet diplomats.

The dispute began in May 1982 when the mayor at the time accused the Soviet diplomats of using Killenworth as a spy on Long Island's arms industry.



Gatecrasher: A twin-engine light aircraft is surrounded by onlookers after it crashed into an exhibition centre in São Paulo, Brazil. The four people in the plane and seven on the ground were only slightly injured.

Managua claims port victory over rebels

Managua, (Reuter) - Nicaraguan troops have recaptured a port held by rebels since Friday and driven the insurgents back across the border into Costa Rica, the Defence Ministry announced.

But a spokesman for the Costa Rica-based Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (Arde) denied that the guerrillas had abandoned San Juan del Norte and said fighting was still going on.

"Our men are valiantly resisting the air, sea and land attacks of the Sandinista counter-offensive," he said, adding that he had been in radio contact with Arde's military commander Señor Eden Pastora.

The Defence Ministry said

the air force had sunk two of six vessels being used by Arde rebels in their retreat from the southeastern Pacific port, a mile from the Costa Rican border.

About 450 guerrillas had overrun the tiny port on Friday and Arde said it planned to establish a provisional government in southern Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan statement spoke of numerous casualties but did not give any figures. It said the insurgents had retreated into Costa Rica and that sporadic cross-border fighting continued last night.

The Arde spokesman interviewed in Costa Rica said Arde did not yet have the military capacity to hold positions. "It is not in our interests to

concentrate our forces in San Juan del Norte, where we are an easy target for the Sandinista army," the spokesman said.

His comments were in apparent contradiction to earlier statements by Arde spokesmen, which said the rebels would maintain their positions in the town and along 30 miles of beachhead to the north to ensure a constant supply of arms by sea and air.

The capture of San Juan del Norte was the first time Managua's leftist leaders had lost control of a slice of territory since anti-government insurgents began their attacks two years ago.

A spokesman for the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), another rebel group,

said in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, that insurgents killed 34 government soldiers in a major drive and controlled more than 60 miles of highway in northern Nicaragua.

He claimed the rebels ambushed a Sandinista troop convey on Saturday near San Rafael, Del Norte, 60km 36 miles south of the Honduran border, killing 30 Sandinista soldiers. Rebels also ambushed another Sandinista military vehicle near the town of Rio Blanco in Matagalpa province, killing four soldiers and capturing their ammunition.

He said the guerrillas controlled roads leading from the central town of Matagalpa to the towns of May May and Rio Blanco.

The FDN has said its forces, along with Arde and a Miskito Indian guerrilla group known as Misura, are staging a three-pronged offensive against the government. But a formal alliance among the three groups, until now only loosely associated, has not been announced.

● HAVANA: The United States has virtually occupied Honduras and is using it as a military base for new attacks against Nicaragua, the Cuban Foreign Minister, Señor Isidoro Malmierca said yesterday (according to Reuter).

The Foreign Minister said that Cuba could not materially help Nicaragua if the US

invaded Nicaragua, but he predicted a US invasion would be "a costly mistake".

● SAN SALVADOR: - The Salvadorean military commander of an area in which guerrillas have been active says rebels are now receiving mostly ammunition, not weapons, from Nicaragua (the New York Times News Service reports).

The ammunition had been entering the country overland through Honduras and Guatemala and by boat to areas on the Pacific coast of El Salvador, said Lieutenant Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, the military commander in the eastern part of El Salvador, nearest to Nicaragua.

DeLorean defence out of cash

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Yesterday's start to the trial here of Mr John DeLorean, the car manufacturer, on charges of dealing in cocaine, was threatened on Tuesday by a financial tangle.

The Federal District Judge, Mr Robert Talsup, ruled that the trial must go in front of a recently chosen jury despite pleas by Mr DeLorean's two defence lawyers, Mr Donald R. Weitzman and Mr Howard Weitzman, that they have no money left to run the defence.

"We don't have the cash to pay for investigators or witnesses," Weitzman said.

The lawyers had claimed that an action in San Diego which froze Mr DeLorean's assets of \$19m on behalf of the trustee in the Detroit bankruptcy proceedings against the DeLorean Motor Company, cut off funds for Mr DeLorean's defence.

Mr Weitzman, who claims to have taken out personal loans of more than \$300,000 to finance the case, says he can no longer afford to "personally front" expenses for the defence.

Mr DeLorean's legal costs during the almost 18 months since his arrest are expected easily to run over \$1m.

It is possible that should Mr Weitzman and Mr R. Weitzman, Mr DeLorean would be given a public defender.



Journey's end: Salvadorean soldiers carrying the body of a comrade killed in a rebel ambush.

Swaziland steps up pressure against ANC fugitives

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Mounting pressure on the underground African National Congress (ANC) to relinquish its guerrilla foothold in Swaziland, the organization's main infiltration route into South Africa, has been reflected over the past two weeks in repeated clashes between Swazi police and fugitive insurgents.

Prince Bhakimphe Dlamini, in a television broadcast on Monday night, said Swaziland was "infested with an unprecedented scourge of foreign criminals", and he appealed to the populace to help the Army and police flush the ANC insurgents out.

President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia has meanwhile disclosed to Western journalists in Lusaka, that a summit meeting of African "frontline" states is to be held later this month, probably in Tanzania, to discuss how, if at all, the ANC can continue to operate in southern Africa.

The ANC's position has sharply worsened since the signing of the Nkomati Accord on March 16 between South Africa and Mozambique. A central feature of this pact was that Mozambique would curb

the ANC's use of its soil as a base for guerrilla activities against South Africa, while Pretoria would cease supporting anti-government rebels in Mozambique.

A few weeks later it was disclosed that a very similar agreement had been in force secretly with Swaziland since February 1982. It was apparently not made known at the time of signature so as to protect Swaziland from criticism from other black states in the region.

Since March 16, Mozambique has been in the process of reducing the ANC's presence there to a ten-member mission of a strictly diplomatic character. Four of the ten people were rejected and four others had to be found.

It is understood that, in addition, about 15 ANC teachers and technicians will be allowed to stay on in Maputo, and that ANC leaders, like Mr Oliver Tambo, the president in exile, will be allowed to visit. But an estimated 250 ANC members a day are crossing the frontier into Swaziland to escape expulsion from Mozambique. It is thought that some of

them are people who fled in the reverse direction several months earlier to avoid the same fate in Swaziland.

Over the past fortnight at least 30 ANC fugitives have been arrested by Swazi police and a senior police officer has been killed, and five other policemen wounded, in exchanges of fire with ANC gunmen. In the latest incident, an ANC man was killed by his own hand grenade in a clash with the Swazi Army near the Mozambique frontier.

Over the same period ANC fugitives have also escaped on two occasions from Swazi police custody. The latest breakout occurred on Monday at Bhunya in western Swaziland when an ANC gunman forced duty officers at the local police station to release four of his colleagues.

According to Swazi sources, the Government is negotiating with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to see if homes can be found in other countries for the entire ANC community in Swaziland. With the constant influx from Mozambique, it is impossible to put an accurate figure on the numbers involved.

Big win for Antigua's ruling party

St John's, Antigua (Reuter) - The Prime Minister, Mr Vere Bird, aged 73, was returned to power for another five-year term in the Caribbean state of Antigua and Barbuda when his Labour Party made an almost clean sweep in yesterday's general elections, winning 16 of the 17 parliamentary seats.

Dhaka disaster

Dhaka (AP) - More than 150 passengers were feared drowned after two motor launches collided and one capsized in the Buriganga river south of the Bangladeshi capital. Strong winds and darkness delayed rescue efforts.

Tense talks

Jakarta - The Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea concluded three days of strained talks on the border situation with a joint communiqué in which the only point of agreement was the need for increased communications.

Miners bitten

Johannesburg (AFP) - Sixteen black miners were taken to hospital in the Transvaal after being bitten by police dogs at Randfontein gold mine. The dogs were turned on them while they were drinking on lands belonging to white farmers.

Turk cleared

Rome (Reuter) - Omer Mersan a Turk extradited from West Germany to Italy, has been cleared of giving Mehmet Ali Agca, the man who shot the Pope, a false passport.

Paris visit

Mrs Margaret Thatcher is to visit Paris on May 4 and will hold talks over lunch with President Mitterrand, Downing Street announced yesterday.

Correction

The recent seminar at Peshawar which was mentioned in a report from Islamabad on March 31 was organized by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

Sri Lanka emergency extended after violence

President Junius Jayewardene yesterday extended the state of emergency for a month, after the latest outbreak of communal violence.

Mr. Devanassan, National Government agent for the northern Jaffna district, said more than 50 people had been shot by soldiers in the provincial capital last week.

Officials had said earlier that 32 people were killed in skirmishes between troops and Tamil Separatist guerrillas attacking a school, a Buddhist temple and a police station in the town.

Mr. Luther - Jayasingham,

president of the independent Jaffna Citizens' Committee, said he estimated that 234 people had been shot dead over a four-day period. Most were bystanders killed in random shooting by soldiers after guerrilla attacks.

Another Jaffna official said many civilians had been killed because they were usually the only people left at the scene of a guerrilla attack.

The Information Ministry Secretary, Mr Douglas Liyanage, quoted Army reports that showed at least 12 of last week's victims were associated with guerrillas.

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Good news: Laskys open Good Friday.

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Come and drive the latest Orions in Ford's Great Easter Parade.

**(They're just as chic as ever,
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Whatever you do this Easter, don't miss the Great Easter Parade down at Ford dealers.

It's your chance to have a bit of fun and get behind the wheel of some of today's most exciting cars.

Cars like the luxurious Ford Orion.

As you can see there are now four Orion models to choose from following the introduction of the new L series. And on top of that, the three existing models, the GL, Ghia and 1.6i Ghia are down in price too.**

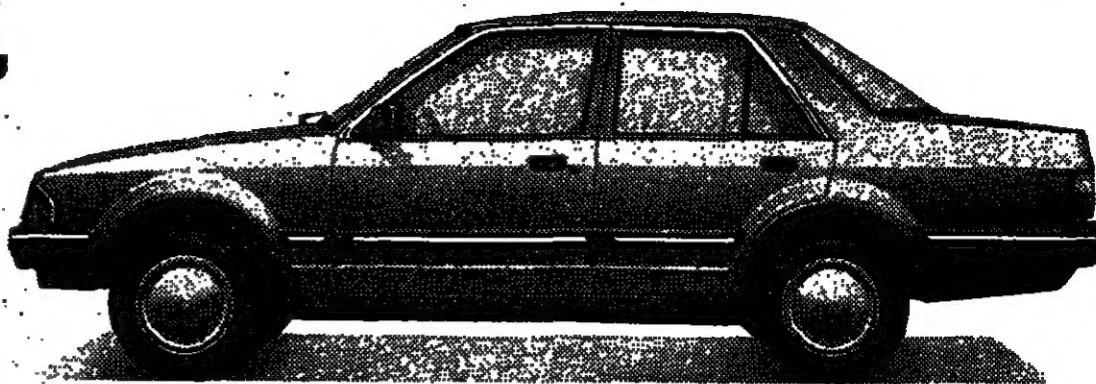
Excellent news, when you consider that the Orion GL has just been voted Best Medium Car of the Year, in 'What Car' magazine.

The Orion is an elegant car that provides bags of space for both driver and passengers alike. The seats are designed to soak up long journeys. A stratified heating and ventilation system creates an ideal travelling environment. Obsessive attention to sound proofing keeps noise levels down low.

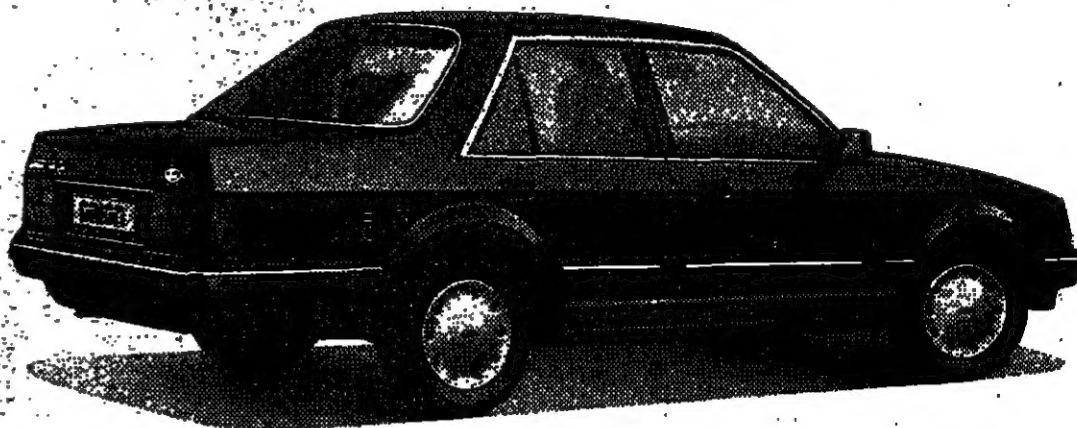
Like all Fords, low running costs are given high priority. The 1.6 five speed, for example, returns an admirable 54.3 mpg at 56 mph†, yet covers 0-60 mph in 10.2 seconds with a top speed of 104 mph††

The fully independent suspension and rack and pinion steering give you a good 'feel' – and make life very comfortable for everyone on board. Everyone's luggage is catered for too, in the cavernous 13.5 cu. ft. boot which is supplemented by a split hatch back seat to cope with any awkward loads.

Having said all that, you still have a problem. Namely, which is the perfect Orion for you? Well, get down to Ford's Easter Parade and find out!



Orion GL. Now from £5,707.*



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Orion L. From only £5,485.*

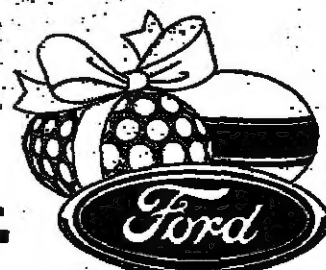
†Govt. fuel economy figures for Orion 1.6L 5 speed – mpg (litres/100 km). Constant 56 mph (90 km/h) 54.3 (5.2).

Constant 75 mph (120 km/h) 40.4 (7.0). Urban cycle 33.2 (8.5).

*Maximum prices excluding delivery and number plates. Orion L shown is a 1.6L from £5,789.

**Off maximum retail price. ††Ford computed figures.

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SPECTRUM

Poet of church and state

The Times Profile
C. H. Sisson

C. H. Sisson was born in 1914, and celebrates his seventieth birthday on Sunday. His preference for plain initials over Christian names unites him with another generation of writers - T. S. Eliot, C. S. Lewis, W. H. Auden, F. R. Leavis - for whom the art of writing was no part of the cult of personality.

Like them, Sisson believes literature to be one of the few serious occupations of mankind. Like them, he sees the decline of literary culture as a social and political disaster of incalculable proportions. Unlike them, however, Sisson has achieved eminence late in life, long after the transformations which afflicted him have become established features of our social world. His warnings, therefore, are more like regrets than prophecies, and his melancholy verses have yet to be accepted for what they are: the distillation of a common loneliness.

Sisson was born in Bristol, and brought up among working-class people, an experience which gave him a life-long distaste for the sentimental socialism of Auden, Spender and Day-Lewis. "I could not help noticing," he writes, "that it was not from a world I inhabited - which actually contained working people - that these three Saint Georges came riding to the relief of the poor. They came, it seemed, from what they represented as the closed middle class of 'majors, vicars, lawyers, doctors, advertisers, maiden aunts' (their maiden aunts, not mine) whom they made a special point of denouncing. . . . When they spoke of the workers it was as if they were speaking of people in some far-off fairyland, or alternatively of a remote race of South Sea Islanders, or of a favourite breed of beetles."

Under the influence of these upper-class intellectuals, the Union of Bristol University anticipated that of Oxford and voted that it would not fight for king and country. Sisson was by then reading English and philosophy at Bristol, and was outraged by the combined foolishness and arrogance which had led to this self-destructive declaration. Later, on a visit to Nazi Germany, he had the dubious consolation of seeing that a fight for king and country would soon be necessary.

In the meantime, he found a fuller and more lasting consolation in books, and in particular in T. E. Hulme - a writer who denounced not only the humanitarianism, but also the humanism of socialist intellectuals. Sisson began to acquire the two passions which were later to find in his writings such vivid and compelling expression: that for the Anglican church, and that

for the "hidden" constitution of Britain, of which the Anglican church has been so memorable an emblem.

It was many years, however, before these passions bore literary fruit. In the meantime - after a brief spell in Germany and France (where he acquired a warm but critical admiration for the nationalist philosopher Charles Maurras) - Sisson joined the Civil Service. Except for three years in the army, he remained in the Civil Service for 40 years.

Sisson's army years were spent as an "OR" - a status he retained throughout his short military career. His commanders were impressed by his knowledge of French and German, and therefore sent him to the Indian North-west frontier, under the impression that this was the place where such accomplishments could be of most service to the Crown. The experience is directly recorded only in a few poems, and a slight but amusing satire - *An Asiatic Romance*, published in 1953. Its effect upon Sisson was, however, as profound as anything that he underwent. He was stirred to the depths by the experience of political power deprived of the limiting influence of a civic culture.

Until retirement he was largely unknown

For Sisson, wartime India, under the failing dominion of the British Raj, was the antithesis of Britain. In India, power, violence and suffering were not made tolerable by the common understanding and moderating influence of civil institutions. Instead, they were openly flaunted, and ruthlessly anatomized, as though by the hand of a cruel surgeon. Sisson returned to England and to Whitehall with a deeper sense of the meaning of government, and a deeper conviction that the art of government is more easily lost than acquired.

Until retirement in 1974, he stayed at his desk, rising to the rank of under-secretary, but largely unknown to the outside world. His outlook was too serious and too committed to allow him the luxury of a literary persona. Like Eliot in his bank, Wallace Stevens in his insurance office, Philip Larkin in his library, Sisson devoted himself to literature, not for the sake of glory, but for the love of words, and for the sake of truth. He belongs to that class of poet for whom the deficiencies of modern experience are to be remedied not by escape but by application, and



Sisson: 'Bad writing is writing which expresses the politically manoeuvrable sentiments and is therefore part of the system of force which is government'

by an honest but ironical confrontation with the real social world.

Sisson's first book of poems, *The London Zoo*, appeared only in 1961. His literary production hitherto had been mainly in the form of essays, in *The New English Weekly* and elsewhere. Both the tone and the content of these essays - now collected as *The Avoidance of Literature* - owe much to Eliot. In them he rehearses his attachment to the history, religion and literature of his native land, and in particular to the seventeenth-century divines who did so much to provide the language in which the idea of a national religion could be given cogent expression. For Sisson the great figures of the early Anglican church - Donne, Herbert, Vaughan, Hooker - remain the teachers of modern Britain.

In a letter to John Donne, he exhorts the former Rector of Sevenoaks to 'Come down and speak to the men of ability On the Sevenoaks platform and tell them That at your Saint Nicholas the faith Is not exclusive in the foods it chooses.'

That the vain, the ambitious and the highly

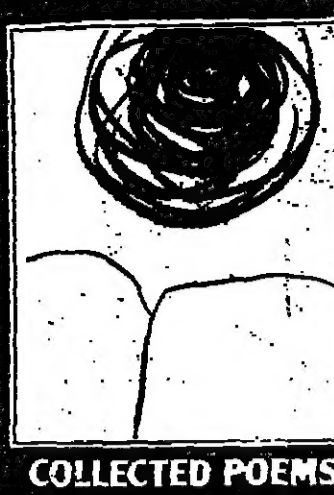
And in a series of essays, printed privately at Sevenoaks in 1967, he describes the "historical church", the *Ecclesia Anglica*, "with its tail of protestant sects fading imperceptibly into the great mass of what might be called the *prejudice of disaffection*", as the "centre of political England".

Not surprisingly, Sisson was one of the most prominent of the many writers who lent support to the recent movement in defence of the traditional Anglican liturgy - a liturgy saturated with that sense of historical continuity by which Sisson, along with so many of his countrymen, has tried to live. No doubt the failure of this movement has come as no surprise to Sisson, who writes always as though words are effective against the Philistine and the humanist only when used wrongly - and he would rather lose a battle than use words wrongly in the course of it.

The unfashionable nature of his opinions and the frequently sour manner of their expression, caused his existence as an essayist to go for many years unnoticed. Two books, however, appeared in his early middle age, and established his reputation as a writer of wide-ranging intelligence and great imaginative power. The first, *The Spirit of British Administration* (1959), remains the classic exposition of the nature and function of the Civil Service in a nation governed by what Enoch Powell has called "prescriptive monarchy". The second, the novel *Christopher Himm* (1965), is perhaps Sisson's masterpiece - the story of a working-class life, beginning with the lonely death of its protagonist, and proceeding with excruciating exactitude towards his birth. This "negative narrative" is a striking technical achievement. It also has a powerful emotional effect, endowing Himm's arbitrary sufferings with the ineluctable logic of predestination. Maybe there is a certain cheating in this effect: the joylessness of Himm's life is as much a literary artefact as an honest observation. But Sisson cheats with such style as to disarm his critics.

Those two books marked the true beginning of Sisson's literary career. Since then, thanks to the industry and support of Michael Schmidt, his devoted publisher, Sisson's reputation, as poet, critic and translator, has become secure. This week his *Collected Poems* appears, hard on the heels of the *Anglican Essays*, in which Sisson mourned so eloquently the vanished learning of his church.

C. H. Sisson



DuBella

The Regrets

Collected Poems, and a translation of DuBella's *Les Regrets*

Sisson is a shy and private man, who lives with his wife in the small town of Langport, no longer troubled by the rigours of civil administration. His poetry now is faintly pastoral: his essays terse, sad, and unrequited. He continues to speak for the Anglican church and for the idea of monarchy, but in an oblique and complex language, aware of the treachery of words. As early as 1939 he affirmed that "bad writing is writing which expresses the politically manoeuvrable sentiments and is therefore part of the system of force which is government". Sisson the writer has never been part of that system of force: his work, even at its most political, looks above the political process, focussing upon the enduring institutions which it is our duty to remember, and on the way of life which they contain.

In a powerful study of Walter Bagehot (1972) Sisson attacked in dismissive and often devastating terms the spirit of Victorian liberalism, the spirit that must have everything explained, and which pours scorn on the incomprehension and simple veneration by which the mass of people love. "The final point in the statement must rest," he affirmed, "on a certain incomprehension, and incomprehension is the beginning of theology."

Bagehot, to Sisson, was the representative figure of modern politics, the politics of economic man, for whom everything human must be measured in terms of the profit and the loss, and for whom mystery and piety are politically significant only because

Bagehot was a founding father of the apologetics of "fact". Clever, sceptical men of affairs, the class whose activity consisted in deceiving the others, saw, according to him, nothing else, and what the other saw was nothing. Facts were what Bagehot could use, to clear a way for himself in society, and to make money. They are likewise the weapon of the contemporary civil servant, to turn away wrath and to make a game so complicated that no one else can play it.

In such words, Sisson condemns both his own former profession, and the illusions it presently serves. Over them he holds the banner of a spiritual inheritance: a solemn, sensitive Toryism, whose value is the greater because it cannot be made intelligible to such as Bagehot. By a strange irony of circumstance, Bagehot's tomb at Langport stands by Sisson's garden, and the mortal remains of the Victorian egotist now nourish the vegetables of his modest detractor, who eats them frugally, but with relish.

Roger Scruton

moreover...
Miles Kington

A guide to the avoidance of racism

I am, frankly, puzzled whenever I read about racial problems or listen to programmes about race. It is as if the people in the race relations industry use words in a different way from the rest of us. After much perseverance I have tracked down about a dozen key words, and listed the meanings which I think they have in the minds of the users, though I am still not sure if I have got them all right.

Racism. This has now entirely replaced "racialism", though it is exactly the same thing, to the suggestion that any race is worse at doing something than another race and thereby to make that race feel threatened. It is racist to say that blacks tend not to make good businessmen, that Celts get drunk too easily, or that Italians are cowards. It is not racist to say that Germans are humourless, because that doesn't seem to worry them.

The odd thing is that there is nothing racist about saying that any race is better than another race at doing something, to say that Celts are more imaginative, that Asians make good businessmen, is not racist. When Miles Davis goes on record as saying that black musicians have more soul than whites, that is not racist.

Asian. A word widely used by the British to disguise the uncomfortable fact that they still can't tell the difference between Indians and Pakistanis.

Oriental. The same but to disguise the fact that the British can't tell the Chinese from the Japanese.

Black. Any person with African blood also to disguise the fact that the British are not very good at distinguishing West Indians, Africans and American blacks. It's sometimes hard to see why the British, in their insular ignorance, manage to be racist at all.

There is one mystery about being black which I have never seen properly explained. A black person with a little European blood is called black, a European person with a little black blood is called black. Why? For instance, the girl who has recently become Miss America was the first black girl to win the title. The only adverse comments she has received, she says, are from black Americans who consider she is too fair-skinned to represent them adequately.

Ethnic. An adjective used to describe garments which have no apparent means of fastening, objects with no apparent function, made of wood tied together with string, restaurants where you have to ask the waiter to explain the menu and people who prefer their own way of living to ours.

Asian. Another meaning. Any shop that stays open late.

Semite. Any of the group of races that speak a Semitic language, notably the Jews and Arabs. (Admittedly, though, to be anti-Semitic is only to be anti-Jewish. An example of Anti-Semitism is any suggestion that the United States might reduce any of its aid to Israel or sell anything to an Arab.)

Melting-pot. The process whereby members of different races in big cities withdraw into their own communities and refuse to mix.

Ghetto. A community that has yet to make it.

Tribal. A word used instead of racial to explain why one group of Africans sometimes goes on the warpath against another.

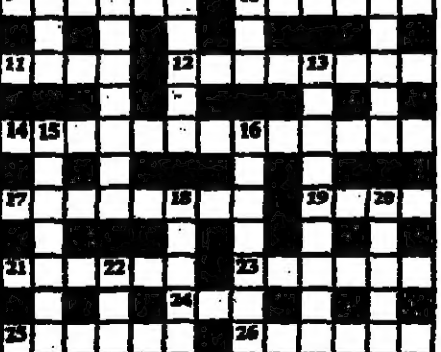
Afro. A hair-do.

Nigger. An insulting racist term which is now so taboo that it can only be used by avant-garde black comedians.

White. A minority of the world's population with pinkish-greyish complexions who for some unaccountable reason think themselves to be normal and everyone else different.

As I said, these are only one man's observations. I am happy to be corrected if wrong.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 322)



- ACROSS: 1 Mountain chain (6), 2 Behind (5), 3 Race circuit (6), 4 In sudden bursts (9), 5 London Symphony Orchestra (11), 6 Disreputable woman (7), 7 Wash trough (6), 8 Nuts (5), 9 Small freeholder (6), 5 Flying saucer (11, 11), 11 Staunch (4), 7 Nautical balance (7), 12 Crushed (8), 13 Ski trousers (9), 14 Race winner (4, 9), 15 Enthusiastic reception (7), 16 Male witch (6), 16 Uneasy (7), 17 Mentally slow (6), 18 Emblem (5), 19 Wildebeest (3), 20 Mexican hemp plant (5), 21 Conjure up (6), 22 Fuss (3), 23 Australian girl (6).

SOLUTION TO No 321: ACROSS: 1 Dumpy, 2 Crabby, 7 Fine, 8 Feminist, 9 Genetics, 12 Cep, 15 Woolly, 16 Jotter, 17 Got, 19 Supermac, 24 Effusive, 25 Asia, 26 Flagon, 27 Tensor. DOWN: 1 Daft, 2 Pentecost, 3 Refit, 4 Comic, 5 Anna, 6 Basic, 10 Evens, 11 Scour, 12 Calisthenics, 13 Park, 14 Swig, 18 Offa, 20 Union, 21 Erect, 22 Jung, 23 Fair.



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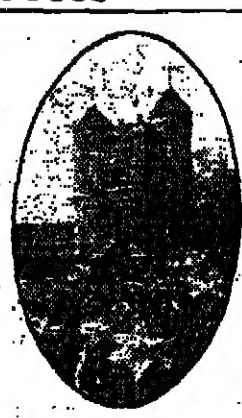
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- Travel on the seafloor - holidays in home waters
- Sport: Preview of the Easter Stakes at Kempton and full racing cards



PLUS: News from home and abroad; Prize jumbo crossword with an additional set of concise clues; Family Life has an answer for children with holiday blues; Values considers the case for Sunday trading; review of the month's video cassettes; Bridge and Chess

BOOKS

Golden boy in the shadow of Churchill

Randolph

A Study of Churchill's Son
By Brian Roberts
(Hamish Hamilton, £12.95)

Casting around in Cyprus as a roving reporter for the *News of the World* in 1956, Randolph Churchill hit upon what he thought was a splendid opening for a piece about Makarios. There was an old man with a beard, he began, quoting Edward Lear's nonsense verse, but, having introduced his hirsute Archbishop, he then found himself unable to proceed any further and eventually collapsed into a drunken stupor, leaving the kindly James Cameron to file his copy. On safari in the Sahara a few years later, Biggles Pomerooy compared Randolph to "some allegorical beast", he combined "the dragon and the teddy bear, unable to turn his back on a challenge, he is brave, and headless as the first when confronted, or sweet as the second when he thinks no-one is looking". Reading this entertaining and sympathetic life of Randolph by Brian Roberts, I was reminded of Mr Toad.



Vicky's unpublished and unkind cartoon of Randolph Churchill waiting for a call in his unsuccessful attempts to find a seat in Parliament bluster, bombast, and the Churchill glamour as a short-cut to success, tarnished into someone who, in his own words, "should never be allowed out in private". His indulgent father brushed aside the sage Robert Birley's criticisms of Randolph's work at Eton with: "He's going to be a

great man". There was, however, a forecast of Randolph's political future when another (temporary) break. Frank Pakenham, held a mock election in class and young Churchill did not receive a single vote. He was given up as far having been "bloody awful all round".

"One of his troubles", as Sir Osbert Lancaster has observed, "was that his mother hated him, absolutely loathed his guts". Clementine Churchill took a particularly dim view of Randolph modelling himself on his vulgar godfather, Lord Birkenhead, the hard-drinking "F.E." Seduced by the easy rewards of American-lecture tours and journalism, Randolph checked Oxford. Although he threw himself fervently behind his father's causes, he never really "did his prep" (to turn one of his own schoolboy sayings against him) and by the time of his death, aged 57 in 1968, his curriculum vitae only ran to a wartime stint in the Commons as the (unopposed) MP for Preston, military service in North Africa and Yugoslavia (his time cooped up with Evelyn Waugh might make an enjoyable television play, as long as Mr R. Huggert is excluded from the project), plus a few books, including the first two volumes of his father's biography.

Following a family tradition, the now Not-So-Young Winston has been said to be engaged on a biography of Randolph but, save for a memorial volume edited 13 years ago by Kay Halle, this is the only book yet to have appeared on the subject. (Another life by Randolph's cousin, Anita Leslie, has also been announced.) Reading between the lines of his acknowledgements, it would seem that Mr Roberts's researches have received the Churchillian cold shoulder (even if Randolph's dear friend, Laura Charteris, who married his cousin Bert Marlborough, was clearly characteristically warm), and I noticed that the poor author was reduced to describing Randolph's son as if he were a Privy Councillor which (no comment) he is not.

Randolph emerges as a surprisingly lonely, touching and likeable figure behind the larger-than-life "Great Boar of Suffolk". I warmed to the descriptions of his eyes lighting up with the arrival of each new dish. That is the advantage of reading the story of a failure: there is so much more with which to identify.

Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd

Chips Down Under

The Australian Dilemma
By Bruce Grant
(Macdonald, £14.95)

On that night in September last year when Australia wrested the America's Cup from the New York Yacht Club, a bemused BBC man with a microphone, delighted to find another non-Australian at a very exhausting High Commission party, asked if I could explain what all the fuss was about. It is only a yacht race, he kept muttering.

I wish I could have handed him a copy of Bruce Grant's book. Not only does it offer academically-inclined insights into contemporary Australia to combat the ignorance of those whose knowledge hinges on Hogan, Humphries, and a handful of films, but, above all, it explains how (some) Australians feel towards America: beholden and bothered.

Australia is totally dependent on the United States for defence and partly dependent on her for development dollars. The combination is stifling the emergent national identity and preventing the achievement of independent nationhood. However, if she risks herself of both, she will be unprotected and a damn sight worse off. Such is *The Australian Dilemma* according to Bruce Grant. Winning that yacht race helped for a moment to relieve the pain of such a position.

It is hardly a new dilemma, as Grant documents. Since the story began in 1788 Australia has been an island of Western Civilization at the tail end of Asia and in 200 years has not found a satisfactory solution to this situation. First she looked to Britain for protection and investment she got both at the high price of complete domination. And then when the Japanese bombed Darwin in 1942, the Americans appeared. Grateful Australia sank into the arms of a new protector, this time a benefactor whose raw energy seemed so much more in line with Australia's image of herself, than stuffy old Britain. Bewitchment with all things American began. The price was just as high, if not higher and included having three America "facilities" on Australian soil said to be "part of a genuine deterrent system, contributing to a stable nuclear balance". Some fear they make Australia more vulnerable to attack. An Australian used to be defined as a man with a chip on both shoulders. Now he can be redefined as a man with a Pom on one shoulder and a Yank on the other.

Grant acknowledges that Australia has teetered on the brink of nationhood before, but lacked the will and ability to take critical steps in defence and economic development.

The trouble with *Australian Dilemma* is that while the author shows vision and will, he does not convince me that these are shared by more than a tiny minority. Nonetheless the book is a welcome and fresh salvo to enliven an old and on-going debate.

Linda Christmas

Norman attitudes

The Two Cities
By Norman St John-Stevias
(Faber, £12.95)

Mr St John-Stevias was over-indulgent in jokes about people in high places and expressions of naive views on economics of which he has little understanding. He did not carry enough guns to get away with both. When she removed him from her Cabinet, Mrs. Thatcher offered him a job outside it as Minister for the Arts. Foolishly he refused it, despite having previously coupled the job with that of Leader of the Commons. From his book I suspect that Mr St John-Stevias may regret that refusal. It is better to keep a torch in heaven than to be in outer darkness. From the torch in heaven it is possible to climb higher again: from outer darkness returns are rare.

Mr St John-Stevias is interesting about government and the Arts. He had much to do with setting up the National Heritage Fund and stimulating private and business sponsorship of the Arts. He is in tune with the modern belief, on weak evidence, that the Arts would wither away without the state.

A keen student of Walter Bagshot, about whom he has written well, Mr St John-Stevias is better at writing about his own activities in parliament than in philosophizing about that institution. He describes himself as a reformer of the Commons both as its Shadow or substantive leader, but he misunderstands its nature, as Dick Crossman did. It is not the US Congress in which the President and his Cabinet Ministers do not sit. The Founding Fathers having decided that George III's powers, devolving on the President, should be great but subject to

perpetual obstruction by a parliament in which the President has little or no patronage.

In Britain we have allowed George III and his Ministers into parliament in the shape of the modern Prime Minister. The Commons contains around a hundred Ministers plus Parliamentary Private Secretaries and another hundred and fifty or so MPs aspiring to be placemen. The entertainment of rocking the boat in Select Committees and with adverse votes can be afforded only by MPs whose ambitions are irretrievably disappointed, or who, quirkily, have none. It may be morally wrong that Prime Ministers and governments have almost absolute control over their own majority; but that is the system and will remain so as long as the Prime Minister sits and dispenses patronage in the Commons.

That is why Opposition leaders also are averse to Select Committees obstructing or overturning government decisions and why they put the Whips on their own followers. Oppositions hope, too, to be in government. They do not want any dangerous ideas getting about among their followers that they have any important functions other than to support the government.

A Leader of the House of Commons is supposed to manage it in the interests of the government, not to give ideas above its station. Mr St John-Stevias was a good and charming, and practical leader of the Commons; but no reformer. It is clear from his book that he has considerable admiration for Mrs Thatcher and would be more circumspect if he were given office again. I hope he gets it: he deserves it.

Woodrow Wyatt

Bumptious curmudgeon, and still a star

An Old Man's Diary
By A. J. P. Taylor
(Hamish Hamilton, £8.95)

One of my first assignments as a journalist, on a night when Philip Hope-Wallace had abandoned, was reviewing an Evening with Marlene Dietrich who was then what I suppose could be defined as an old woman. But her age was hardly relevant. She put on a performance of such thoroughgoing glitter and professional toughness that she soon ignored completely the elements of freakishness. This so-called Old Man's Diary is a little bit like that.

What is the special quality which makes A. J. P. Taylor the

Marlene Dietrich of his profession, still a star performer although well on in his seventies? The answer is absolutely clear from this collection of exhilarating columns from *The Listener* and the *London Review of Books* which were written concurrently with his recent autobiography, *A Personal History*, and which indeed provide a running commentary on it (his favourite story being that of the conductor on the 24 bus who recognized the book which a friend of his was reading, tapped him on the shoulder and said "tribune, sweet, the homme-du-peuple Hon. Fellow Taylor - "he's a good man and he sometimes travels on my bus." Yes, his secret is his lasting curiosity and quickness

he still finds the world a strange and very stimulating place.

Where most old men - as I know and groan to tell you, since their typewriters thud in thickly, uninvited, on my doormat - are maudering and maudlin, all-too-boringly soft-hearted, thanking and congratulating everyone in sight with a nervous smiling instinct for last-minute over-tipping, A. J. P. Taylor is refreshing curmudgeonly. Acid in his memories read him on Hardy's funeral. Cynical and caustic on the present state of government, reminding us of whom the places are reserved in the nuclear shelters. (Who but the perpetrators of nuclear disaster?) He is even quite malevolent towards his own relations,

Fiona MacCarthy

Brian Alderson reviews the latest children's books

Fragile victories for the outcast child

Betsy Byars should prove an interesting witness before the social historians of the twenty-first century. From the time of her earliest triumphs, like *The Midnight Fox* and *The Elphinstone Emergency* (both published as Puffins), she has shown herself to be an almost instinctive sympathizer with the woes of the exposed child. In novella after novella she has teased out fragile victories for the neglected, the outcast, the self-confident - a lady Blume for the literate adolescent.

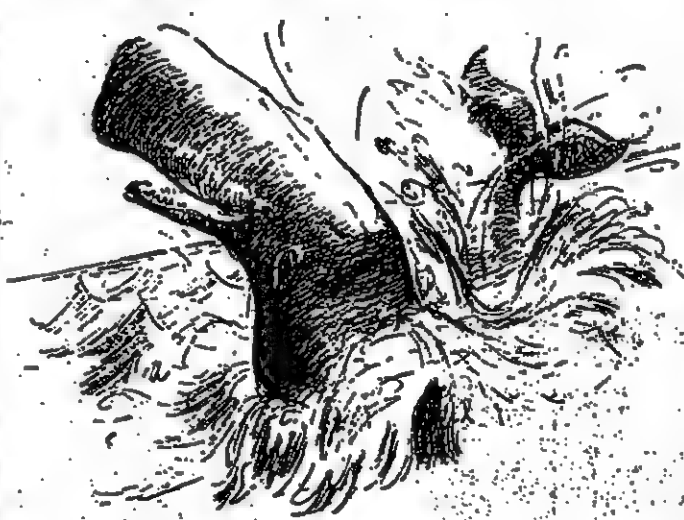
Her very gifts for picturing the suburban folkways of certain mid-century American communities carry with them a dangerous facility. In the recent British edition of *The Summer of the Swans*, for instance (*Kestrel*, £5.95), we see a classic Byars set-up. Thirteen-year-old Sara Godfrey, her older sister Wanda, and her younger brother Charlie, are looked after by a temperamental aunt Sara's mother is dead, her father is almost permanently away, and Charlie has been brain-damaged from the age of three. Furthermore - affliction upon affliction - Sara believes that she has got the biggest feet in West Virginia.

These personal crises, large and small, gain focus, and finally resolution, when Charlie

wanders off in the middle of the night and the whole township turns out to look for him. The details of the story, the near hysteria, the interwoven comedy and backchat are all authentically relayed - but at the same time there is a sense of the mechanical ease of it all. Miss Byars is doing well what she knows she can do well, but the strain of her narrative frame, the brevity of her story permit of no exploration of wider (or deeper) experiences of the characters that she brings to life.

That is not a criticism that can be levelled at Cynthia Voigt, who, in *Homecoming* (*Collins*, £6.95) and *Dacey's Song* (*Collins*, £5.95) has written the first two volumes of a story that begins in, but then breaks, the Byars mould. Here again we have outcast children - four of them trekking down the New England coast after their (husbandless) mother has abandoned them in a Connecticut parking lot - and here again we have a writer gifted in conveying the terrain of her story, the sound of her characters' words. But where Miss Byars keeps everything under cool control, Mrs Voigt takes a bold step towards epic breadth.

This can hardly help succeeding in *Homecoming*, which has



Line drawing by Pat Marriott from Joan Aiken's *Night Birds on Nantucket* (Cape, £5.95), in which the Hanoverians plot to assassinate James III with a cannon-shot across the Atlantic.

the classic form of a quest story, and a classic crumbly *grande dame* to finish with. It shows something of the virtues of expansiveness - a story where you can travel into the lives of the characters as well as their landscape. In *Dacey's Song* though Mrs Voigt attempts to deepen our perceptions of the four children, to show them moving towards a fulfilment

'witty and urbane, like its author',
Ian Aitken, *The Guardian*

THE TWO CITIES

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Solitudes

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(Dent, £8.95)

Angels
By Denis Johnson
(Chatto & Windus, £7.95)

West of Sunset
By Dirk Bogarde
(Allen Lane, £8.95)

Goffredo Parise's stories, "poems in prose", won the Italian Strega Prize. Denis Johnson is an American poet trying his hand at a first novel. Continental heritage, national identity, 3000 miles of Atlantic Ocean and a 20-year age gap separate the two, but in their understanding of human disorder and dismay they are not divided; not in compassion for human hopes set no higher than momentary physical well-being or a moment of private peace. Their characters descend out of *La Divina Commedia* through John Steinbeck, Jack Kerouac, and the lyrics of Simon and Garfunkel.

Let's hitch-hike a hundred miles
I'm a raggedy old man
Pointed finger, painted smile
I left my shadow waiting down the road for me a while...

Readers whose inner ears tune relatively easily to wrong-side-of-the-tracks, ill-educated western American speech will particularly admire Mr Johnson's skill (and even more admirable restraint) in using a variety of registers to accent his characters' confusion and pathos. "He could turn out the light and put a movie in the air with words." Poor, runaway Jamie and her two tiny daughters spin helplessly into poor, Bible-fixated Mrs Houston's orbit of four grown sons, and they all skid on to the Devil, or breakdown, or Death Row, or nowhere-it is all much the same thing-via drugs, rape, robbery with murder, hopeless inadequacy; it is all much the same thing, as it is, much less horrifyingly, not less conclusively, in Signor Parise's 32 swift, glancing stories.

The collection, each story very short, is pegged to abstractions-Felicita, Libertà, Povera-titles in strict, neutrally alphabetical sequence. An elderly widow, walking home through a Venetian fog, defies the boy who threatens to kill her for her handbag. "Why such a fear of death? I'm alone." Dimo, taken by a friend to the nudists' section of a beach, sees more images of mystery and menace among conventional bathers like himself. Women, children, vagrants, workers, students, whisks through situations so varied that only Isabel Quigley's scrupulous, unobtrusive translations free them from possible English assertions that such diversity is by definition exotic.

Not all are substantial; a few seem slack. But in their solitariness, anxiety, and profound indifference they reflect - like Denis Johnson's characters and not a few of the rest of us - the work of Lucifer and his archrebels "continuing their deceptive and seductive efforts to confuse and mislead the minds of men and angels".

Devils do a lot of overtime in Hollywood, if Dirk Bogarde is to be believed, and he is, besides being no slouch of a novelist nowadays. Nobody in their right mind lives in Hollywood, but you have to be really crazy, or Alice Arlington, an Englishwoman down on her luck but nowhere near the skids, to move west of Bel Air to Sunset, that awful boulevard west of everywhere except the Pacific Ocean.

Hugo, her rather odd husband, a writer recently killed in a rather odd road accident, was English too; and so is Jonathan Pool, Alice's former lover, flown out to Hollywood to talk about "potentials, not potential", with movie mogul Andy Shapiro. "Oh shit," said Ellen Lufgarten. "He's croaked." Just as well, perhaps, Mr Shapiro, dead at his desk at

Cristal Productions, was planning to cast Jonathan's screenplay by computer.

The secondary casting here is more affectionate, more serious and more interesting than the leading line-up especially two middle-aged black Americans, Etty Baker and her sister Jupiter, who use English in ways which show how well Mr Bogarde can listen, never mind write. *West of Sunset* is a long way from home, Auntie Beeb, and R.P. It is worth the trip.

You will need to keep a close eye on *The Best of Friends*, by Kathleen Conlon (Hodder & Stoughton, £8.95) you might miss Lorna marrying Charley Fielding, her first love, who first married Frances, Lorna's best friend from school, whose first love, Martin, is the father of Frances's son Philip, who is having something of a dog's breakfast of a life, and no wonder; and doesn't much like Frances, or Lorna, or anybody else; and no wonder. Kathleen Conlon's long, carefully-plotted, competently written novel is sandwiched between Lorna visiting Frances in a mental hospital, and Frances visiting Lorna in hospital after serious surgery, but it is better than it sounds; even touching - now and again. The Devil, and meat in the sandwich, are missing. Happy Easter.

All our Working Lives

Peter Pagnamenta and Richard Overy

A richly illustrated history of Britain's working life since 1914, linked with a new BBC TV series. It draws on the personal recollections of workers in a wide range of occupations - from steelworkers to farmhands, from masters of industry and entrepreneurs to ordinary shopgirls - to give a candid and fresh insight into the strengths and weaknesses of British industry.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Conveyance his regrets

The legal establishment made a public mockery yesterday of Labour MP Austin Mitchell, original author of the Housebuyers Bill, by exposing his bungling attempts at his own conveyancing. Mitchell, whose Bill designed to weaken the solicitors' conveyancing monopoly has now been taken up by the Government, has just moved to Kilburn, north-west London. The buyers of his previous house were represented by solicitor Adrian Tremlett, who says Mitchell "started off better than the average DIYers, and got worse."

As Tremlett recounts in the latest issue of the *New Law Journal*, Mitchell failed to date his letters; failed to submit the draft contract until one month after sending the official copy entries; proposed exchange four days after the draft contract had been received; and failed to reply to requisitions. When I read the article to Mitchell yesterday he gave an embarrassed laugh: "I'll let you know when someone turns up in 10 years and claims the house is theirs..."

● A reader who telephoned Cambridge University's Department of Anatomy was told that, because of Easter, the switchboard is operating on a skeleton staff.

Turn again...

Mrs Thatcher seems assured of immortality - at least on the *Mad World, My Masters*, in which a Thatcher look-alike, stripped to music, the Left Wing Teds, a GLC-funded theatre group, have her smoking marijuana and inadvertently shooting herself with a bullet intended for a member of the unemployed. No doubt pantos of the future will be incomplete, as if they had lost Widow Twankey, without a Maggie.

Wrong number

As publicity for tonight's BBC TV programme *Bertie and the Bomb*, about Bertrand Russell's involvement in the early days of CND, the *Radio Times* this week carries an interview with Dora Russell, the much-married philosopher's second wife. Now in her ninety-first year, she was a founder member of CND and an early campaigner for women's rights. Unfortunately, the article's accompanying photograph shows Russell at a ban-the-bomb demonstration with his fourth wife, Edith, despite the *Radio Times* interviewer ringing Dora up to ask "Are you the first, second, third or fourth wife?"

Don't Cal me...

When the *Sunday Times* deputy foreign editor read Bernard MacClaverty's novel *Cal* he thought it a rattling good read. Just one problem: like the hero, he too is called Cal McCrystal. And like the hero, he too has a son called Cal, an aunt Molly, a brother called Brendan; and his mother, like the hero's, died when he was eight. Somewhat rattled, he rang MacClaverty, who turned white and assured him: it was an astonishing series of coincidences. Penguin, who are bringing out the book in paperback in June, and Goldcrest, who are making *Cal* into a film, have now agreed to change the hero's surname to the more commonplace McCluskey.

Left in the dark

Fleet Street should brace itself for the return of Derek Jameson, former editor of the *News of the World* and the *Daily Star*, and still smarting from his lost libel case against the BBC. He fancies himself as editor of the left-wing tabloid which the Mirror Group plans to launch. "I see it as the *Daily Mail* of the left with sales of 700,000 within a year," he tells me. Jameson should not be over-confident: yesterday there were already 100 job applications for work on the "radical socialist tabloid". Mirror staff were angered by having to read of chairman Clive Thornton's launch plans in *The Sunday Times*. Mr Thornton has told staff that if his experience at Abbey National is repeated, they would "all be sick of the sight of me within a year". Tiny Rowland is not alone.

BARRY FANTONI



Under 60pc proof

Despite his ineptitude - less than 60 per cent of his total earnings coming from journalism - Michael Kelly, Glasgow's Labour Lord Provost, has been accepted for membership of the NUT, as I predicted on Tuesday. Yesterday he celebrated by reopening the Long John whisky distillery in Fort William via a whisky - job for which he seems equally inept. Dr Kelly is teetotal.

PHS

Robert Fisk on Syria's smouldering succession struggle

Will blood triumph - or spill?

Damascus

On the stony hills south of the Barada River just outside Damascus, a great palace is being built. From all over the ancient city, you can see it each evening at sunset, two massive flat blocks of masonry beneath a tracery of cranes silhouetted against the skyline.

American technicians have already installed a powerful system of X-ray security devices and a concrete-encased tunnel is said to have been built in the solid rock deep inside the mountain: capable of withstanding the heaviest and most sustained air raid. Anyone trying to assault the palace would have to scale the sheer cliff above the grassy tracks of the Old Zabadani railway line and survive the gunfire of Adnan Maklouf's strong Republican Guard. For the occupant of the new palace will be President Hafez el-Assad and he is, as even the Americans and Israelis must now realize, something of a survivor.

The new posters that have gone up around Damascus show him now as a middle-aged man with some streaks of silver hair, smiling benevolently but wearing spectacles and, stooping forward to read a speech, a father figure rather than the revolutionary who seized power in 1970. By comparison, the other posters that have been plastered around the south - and on the back windows of some of the Syrian army's newly-imported fleet of British Land Rovers - show an apparently younger man, grinning confidently into the camera in military uniform, red beret at a rakish angle, right hand upraised in cheerful greeting.

He looks uncannily like Hafez el-Assad and it sometimes takes a moment to realize that it is not the president but his brother Rifaat, colonel commander of Syria's Defence Brigades with whom no man would choose to pick an argument unless he had forgotten the slaughter at Hama in 1982.

The posters tell their own story to the people of Damascus. For the physical protection at the new palace does not include the means to everlasting life: and last autumn, President Assad endured his first intimation of mortality, a heart palpitation that forced his admission to a private clinic at the very foot of the mountain on which his palace is being built. It was a curious business because the Israelis suggested - untruthfully, and for their own ends - that Assad had appendicitis.

It was then that Rifaat's picture appeared along the street called Sirajit, and things have never been quite the same since. The first indication that something might be a little wrong within the body politic came in December when Assad officially returned to fitness. One of his first acts was to disband the *Kurds Society*, the so-called group of "satisfied inmates". The Murta



Rifaat: military muscle on the streets of Damascus

was one of those rather esoteric vehicles set up by the Syrian government in the late 1970s as a counter-attraction to the extremely violent influence of the Muslim Brotherhood, the secret army that eventually tried to overthrow the regime with an insurrection in Hama two years ago.

In February the poster war started again. One night at the beginning of the month, Rifaat's picture reappeared on the streets, this time in the suburb of Malki. Within 24 hours they were torn down and replaced by pictures of the president. On February 27 troops appeared in Damascus. Many, in steel helmets, were members of Rifaat's Defence Brigades. Other soldiers from Ali Haidar's Special Forces were transported into the city in army trucks. Haidar is one of Syria's toughest field commanders - his troops were conspicuous against Israel in the 1982 Lebanon invasion, destroying several Israeli tank units in the Bekaa - and although he had previously adopted neutrality in Syria's power play, it appears that he now openly allies himself with the president.

When President Gemayel of

Lebanon visited Damascus next day as a prelude to the abrogation of his country's treaty with Israel, he found Syrian officials preoccupied with an all-night meeting of the Baath Party command, a conference attended by both President Assad and Rifaat. Next morning, security police, commanded by Ali Doubar, head of military intelligence, were deployed around key installations in Damascus, while the president decided to appoint three deputies - Rifaat Assad, Abdul Halim Khaddam, the Foreign Minister, and Zuhair Mousharafa, the assistant secretary-general of the Baath Party's regional command - who would share power and, arguably, ensure a smooth transition to a new president should Assad's health deteriorate.

For what is happening in Damascus is not so much a power struggle as a struggle to ensure a succession should President Assad disappear. One of the president's own senior advisers insisted to *The Times* that the 1974 Syrian constitution took care of the transfer of power. Paragraph 88, he said, specifically called for the first vice-president or a vice-president nominated by the president to order elections within

90 days should the country's leader die or resign.

But who is the first vice-president? Mr Khaddam was named first in the list of deputies, but Rifaat Assad controls internal security. He has physical power at his disposal, and on March 30 some of his troops demonstrated again. They drove 12 T-72 tanks to the Kfar Soussa roundabout in the Damascus suburbs and it is rumoured but not confirmed, President Assad himself had to drive to the scene and instruct the troops to return to barracks.

The issues are compounded, some would say created by the social structure within Syria. The Assad brothers are Alawites, a minority sect that has traditionally, though often unfairly, been regarded as heretics by the Sunni Muslims who form a majority in the country. The Sunnis were the vanguard of the anti-colonial battle during the days of the French mandate, when the French used the Alawites as a counter-force to the extremely violent Muslim extremism that surfaced with such ferocity in Hama two years ago and which was suppressed with such savagery by Rifaat's men.

It is said in Damascus that the president would like Rifaat to succeed him and that, should he retire, he would urge the Baath Party to nominate Rifaat for election. But there is intense hostility to this within some units of the regular army and among Ali Haidar's Special Forces. The stern, ascetic president, with his quiet family life and his liking for seventeenth-century music may not be an immediately attractive figure, but the hedonistic Rifaat is another case altogether.

If some quieter figure, presumably a Sunni like Mr Khaddam, were to be elected president, Rifaat's heavily armed soldiers could block the appointment, however legitimate it might be under the constitution. Syria's leaders are not chosen by a people's election: the Baath Party decides whom the people should elect. In its turn, the party has been protected by President Assad's practice of splitting the nation's military forces so that each can counteract the other's potential to grow in power. The trouble is that when the president's own future no longer seems indefinite, the division of powers becomes a threat rather than a security.

Syria is not on the verge of civil war as its enemies claim: and there can be little doubt that most of its people, mindful of the civil wars of the past, prefer Assad's authoritarian but familiar rule to the unknown quantities of his brother or to insurrection. But if the president wants to enjoy his new palace in tranquility and avoid bloodshed, he will soon have to make some harsh decisions, even if they cut to the heart of his own family.

Richard Davy

No, Kohl will not decamp

A lot of people worry that West Germany is drifting towards neutralism. The worries are mostly in Washington and Paris but some are to be found in London too. People listen to German criticism of President Reagan. They look at the neutralist wing of the Social Democratic Party, demonstrations against missiles, the government's increasingly open talk about German reunification, the apparently cosy relationship with East Germany, and they persuade themselves that old ghosts are on the march again, beckoning Germany towards performing its traditional balancing act between East and West.

It is true that there is a certain restlessness in West Germany, a lot of criticism of the United States, and a widespread desire for Europe to take more of its fate in its own hands. There is also a less welcome tendency to look inwards, to forget that European security is a global matter. But if there is any ghost on the march it looks more like that of Dr Adenauer, the post-war leader who persuaded the West Germans that a solution to the German question could be reached only through total commitment to western Europe.

This is the message of the Christian Democrats, who seem likely to remain in power a long time but even the Social Democrats now seem to be shifting back towards the centre ground which they held when in government. Their spokesman on foreign affairs, Herr Karsten Voigt, said recently at Chatham House that only within the western alliance could West Germany provide a counterweight to the growing military capability of the Soviet Union. No Christian Democrat could have said it better.

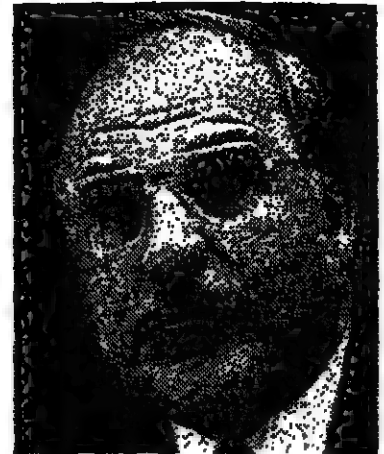
In fact, the mainstreams of both principal parties seem to be converging toward a greater focus on European affairs than they have enjoyed since the great split over the eastern treaties in the early 1970s. The Christian Democrats, who opposed the opening to the East, have done a U-turn and now fully support it. Even Herr Strauss, the Prime Minister of Bavaria and once one of the sternest critics of détente, is a convert. He has been to East Germany himself and recently supported large credits for the policy. Herr Kohl, the Chancellor, talks enthusiastically of "intensive dialogue, multifarious contacts and constructive cooperation", and regularly quotes NATO's Harrier report which says, in effect, that defence and détente are two sides of the same coin.

This is, of course, precisely what worries some outsiders. When one talks to senior German politicians in Bonn and at the recent Anglo-German Königswinter conference, however, one gets a more reassuring message. Herr Kohl and his colleagues insist that their relationship with East Germany and eastern Europe contributes to the security of the alliance and binds West Germany more closely to it.

As Herr Kohl said recently, the fact that relations with the East have survived the threatened "ice age" expected to follow the new missile deployments constitutes "a gain for both sides and a gain for our allies". There are internal and external reasons for this attitude. Internally the government does not want the reunification issue to be captured by the neutralists. Nor can it allow

"peace" to become a monopoly of the opposition. It has to be seen to be vigorously in pursuit of peace itself in order to take the steam out of opposition to the missile deployments: something which it seems to be doing fairly successfully.

But the policy is not just a tactical one. It also represents a view of basic German interests. Herr Kohl sees West Germany as a stabilizing factor in central Europe, standing both the swings in American politics and the ups and downs of relations between the superpowers. His colleagues talk of contributing to western security by maintaining western influence in eastern Europe, thereby making it more difficult for the Soviet Union to mobilize the



Kohl: an ice age survived

area against an alleged threat from the West. Both government and opposition want western Europe to become a stronger and more confident pillar of the western alliance.

Behind these considerations lie more general thoughts on the German problem. Herr Kohl has said that West Germany's long-term interest in reunification - and it is very long-term - is a constructive driving force, "a source of energy" in efforts to overcome the division of Europe. "The national idea and the European idea depend on each other," Germany's aspirations, he says, should join it more closely to Europe in a common dedication to self-determination.

As explained by Dr Alois Mertens, minister of state at the West German foreign office, West Germany must keep alive the principle of self-determination not only because of its constitution, but also in order to maintain its credibility and legitimacy.

Unlike the British, he says, older Germans remember a time when patriotism was equated with tyranny, so West Germany's legitimacy rests on the democratic idea, not on national tradition. It would lose its legitimacy if it ceased to represent the desire of all Germans for self-determination. It would also separate itself from the values of western Europe to which it is now pledged.

This may sound theoretical to British ears but it reflects a sincere belief in government circles that the German problem can be solved only in a European context, and with the support of western allies.

Obviously it would be wrong to be too comfortable about a country with the special problems and erratic history of Germany. There are some new currents flowing there. But the worries can probably afford to be a lot less worried than they are now.

John Garnett

Make them mines of information

When I sat on the Wilberforce inquiry into the coal dispute in 1972 our task was relatively straightforward. We agreed that the miners' industrial might and their right to a better wage were on the same side and gave them their biggest pay increase ever - more than Mick McGahey or Arthur Scargill have won for them since.

The principal challenge facing us was to offer sound advice to the NCB to ensure that such a damaging dispute should never occur again. In our conclusion we stated: "Attention should be given to the systematic and regular use of discussion or briefing groups at all locations."

For communication to be effective, it must be done face-to-face, regularly, and by the manager. The manager must communicate with the supervisor, who must pass the message to his team. This task does not belong to the union, but to management. For - to use the old adage - "he who communicates is he who leads." If the union talks to its members at regular meetings, while management just sends round a newsletter or relies on the notice board, then the union official, not the supervisor or charge hand, will be perceived as the leader.

To their credit, the NCB's Yorkshire officials moved swiftly and began regular briefings of miners in much of their area. But the briefing was usually by the mine manager, not by the chargehand or chargehands who led the fireworkers. Moreover, the briefings became gradually more sporadic and have since died out almost completely. Contrast this with the attitude of the NUM, which now holds regular meetings to put across the union view.

The irony remains that NUM officials have always been well briefed as a result of the highly developed communication system and regular consultations between mine managers and union representatives.

The 1974 strike enabled the NCB to perfect its use of advertising, the mass media and public relations. But that strike again showed that it had failed to win over the mass of mineworkers through regular face-to-face communication.

In the 10 years since 1974 some brave attempts have been made to get the NCB's message across. I shall always remember meeting the manager of a north Nottinghamshire pit who had begun to hold monthly meetings to tell workers what was going on. For the first few months he spoke to an empty room, but as time went by more and more miners came along - not to mention union officials.

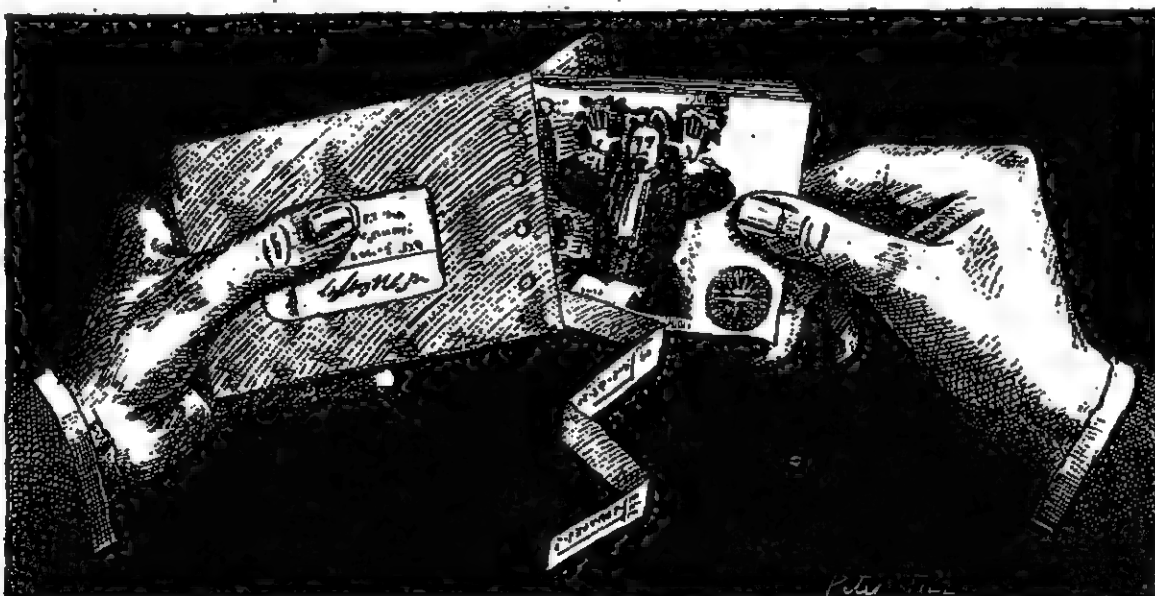
One of the messages he was trying to communicate lies at the heart of the present dispute. The NCB offers a range of local arrangements and redundancy payments when a pit closes that are unsurpassed in the whole of British industry. What a tragedy it is, then, that Arthur Scargill has been able to create mayhem simply because the NCB has not played its part in getting its message across.

In the circumstances of the present dispute, Mr McGregor is right to adopt a low profile and merely to go on reiterating the facts about closures whenever he can. But as soon as there is a return to work, the NCB must look and think again about keeping its employees informed.

Effective communication has been a major factor in the return to profitability of firms such as Vickers and the Talbot motor company. The message has also been understood by some nationalized industries - British Telecom and now British Rail. But the miners' dispute sounds a sombre note for all those organizations which have not used the opportunity of the last few years to put their house in order.

In another of our conclusions when resolving the 1972 dispute we identified "goodwill, keenness and sense of urgency" among the miners. That commitment still exists, not only in the mines but among all who work in British industry. If their leaders can only communicate that sense of common purpose, then the havoc of the present dispute, and the industrial problems of recent years, will not have been in vain.

The author is director of the Industrial Society.



Why teachers resent being put to the test

promotion scheme, so that assessment would single out for a separate accelerated promotion system teachers of long-term promise and outstanding ability.

Young entrants to the profession, trapped in the bottom grades, form a frustrated core in the forefront of the pressure to strike. Most of them have never staged a walk-out. More than 60 per cent of teachers are in the lowest brackets, scales one and two. Scale one ranges from £5,178 to £8,142, and scale two from £5,949 to £9,132. One-quarter of all teachers are stuck on the top of these scales: a stagnant market holds small prospects of promotion.

Teachers, generally, suspect that the main purpose behind assessment is to save money; and they also believe that promotion will go to those who quickly identify teaching styles that impress the judges, rather than to those most able to tackle intractable classroom problems, such as disruptive children.

The deadline is unenvyingly near. If, as Sir Keith intends, restructuring is to be introduced next year, he must present the case for extra funds to the Cabinet in June, before next year's local government grants are set. Industrial action in the weeks ahead would certainly inhibit urgently needed progress.

The number of teachers has fallen fast, as diminishing rolls and cuts have forced authorities to avoid filling vacancies caused by natural wastage and early retirement. England had 440,825 secondary and primary teachers in 1979; last year there were 414,621. Pupil/teacher ratios, however, have improved, from 18.9 in 1979 to 18.1 last year.

Part-time and supply teachers, whose numbers were the easiest to trim, have gone. Rate-capping looms, and teachers fear that the price of restructuring will be compulsory redundancies - a fate they have so far avoided.

Few professions have such an ambiguous self-image. Paradoxically, many teachers will justify walking out during their pupils' peak examination revision period by saying they are fighting to defend the service to those same children.

The NUT, for example, will next week pass an executive brief which claims that the "economic and political climate... is more hostile to the welfare of the education service than at any time since the war" - a sardonic assertion for professionals who traditionally equivocate.

If the plausibility of these teachers' pleas is as weak as they believe their standing is in the public eye, it is partly because sincere defence of what they perceive as the public good is confused with a simple instinct for self-preservation. Some of the fiercest anger, for example, is reserved for Sir Keith Joseph's plan to make voluntary lunchtime duties contractually obligatory, even although nearly every teacher does them willingly, they are loath to surrender what they see as a precious vestige of choice.

Even the curriculum, a sacred preserve of the teachers, is being reviewed by bodies that have no teacher representation. The abolished Schools Council has been replaced by two new bodies, the Secondary Examinations Council and the Schools Curriculum Devel-



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GAME OF PATIENCE

The patience controlling the investiture of the Libyan mission in St James's Square is unquestionably right. A waiting game is best at this stage for the multiple objective of closing the mission, removing its entire diplomatic staff from the United Kingdom, and enabling the police to enquire into the shooting, wounding and murder on Tuesday morning. It also does least to bring danger upon our diplomats and other British nationals in Libya. Ultimately the occupants of this nest will have to be cleared out if they will not disperse of their own accord. But the use of force is at the end of a road of some distance.

Scrupulous regard must be paid to the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. These rules of inviolability and immunity have an ancient validity predating centuries their consolidation in the convention of 1961. It is the settled judgment of civilized nations that they or something like them are an essential condition for intercourse between states at the official level. As such they command respect.

Their observance now is further enjoined by the need to give Colonel Gaddafi no pretext to abuse our own diplomats and citizens. Furthermore, effective steps to discourage the kind of outrage committed in St James's Square will require concerted international action. That will be less difficult to procure if British conduct in the affair contrasts with Libyan conduct as light with darkness.

In spite of its irregular status and the dubious character of its personnel, the Libyan "people's bureau" has been treated by the British government as a diplomatic mission, even after one lot of student-diplomats was ousted by another in February of this year. Having made that choice

the Government has to live with its consequences. One consequence is that the building is inviolate and its accredited occupants immune from arrest and outside the criminal jurisdiction of this state.

That will hamper the police in their investigation of the crime. When the occupants come out the "diplomats" among them cannot be held on suspicion or pressed to answer questions. Safe conduct will probably be demanded for the non- or quasi-diplomats. In considering whether to grant it the authorities must recognize that, even were it refused and the people concerned thoroughly interrogated, it is highly unlikely that evidence would be forthcoming sufficient to bring a case to court.

The inviolability of the premises also stands in the way of the police. The Home Secretary has spoken as if the emergence of the occupants would be the signal for a search of the building. In view of the likelihood of there being arms and explosives there a search is called for. But without leave of the head of the mission a search would be out of order. The building would have to be "decontaminated" which would not be before the people's people go, the mission closes and relations are broken off. The duty of the receiving state is then "to respect and protect the premises of the mission together with its property and archives" which is arguably compatible with a search for firearms and explosives.

Diplomatic status has long been abused for the purposes of espionage. An uneasy truce is observed punctuated by retaliatory expulsions every now and then. The same complacency cannot be extended to its abuse as a conduit for political crime, brought now to the blatant extreme of using diplomatic

premises as a platform from which to rake the street in front with gunfire. State-sponsored terrorism makes urgent a review of the details of the Vienna convention. While no state can at alone in this, it is open to Britain to take the initiative.

One possible approach would be to append a schedule of terrorist offences which would not be covered by immunity, on the model of the conventions which withdraw the benefits of asylum from those accused of terrorist crimes. The drawback to that is that any derogation from the fullness of diplomatic immunity would enable unscrupulous governments to fabricate grounds for proceeding, with an appearance of legality, against virtuous diplomats.

A more promising line of reform leads to the diplomatic bag. The packages constituting the diplomatic bag may contain only diplomatic documents or articles intended for official use. Article 27. The facility is notoriously abused, venially and heinously. Agreement should be sought to control the size, weight and frequency of the containers; to have them subject, under safeguards, to external examination for arms and drugs; and perhaps to have diplomatic baggage other than documentary subject to customs inspection with the duty waived if that is desired.

In other respects the fabric of diplomatic immunity needs to be kept intact, leaving the remedy for abuse to lie in greater promptness on the part of an injured state to expel individuals and close missions for serious violation of the obligations of the Vienna convention (the rights conferred by the convention are matched by obligations). The sanction will be the more effective the more such action is supported by the international community.

Sea Eagle ousted by Harpoon

From the General Secretary of the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical & Computer Staff

Sir, You kindly reported in your edition of April 14 my call for the resignation of Michael Heseltine, following the Harpoon fiasco. It was not merely that creative accountancy led to the contract going to Harpoon rather than to Sea Eagle. The Americans' costs were based on a sterling conversion of \$1.65 to the pound compared with the present \$1.43. There was a failure to apply VAT to the American costs, but it was added to the British quote.

It was not merely the strategic error of leaving software control in America, which is opposed to all our experience in the Falklands. It was not merely that we shall lose about half the future exports of Sea Eagle as a result of this decision, nor that the RAF will have to pay separately for improvements to the Sea Eagle launchers, which were funded in the British proposal.

The real issue was that Michael Heseltine is the principal supporter of the Trident programme, which is destined to be Britain's sole nuclear deterrent. With 14 warheads per missile, it is a system totally inappropriate for use as the only British deterrent, since one missile fired at 14 targets is a declaration of general nuclear war.

This is the strategic absurdity to which Mr Heseltine has pledged so much of our defence procurement budget in buying an American system over the next 10 years that the conventional side of our Forces will be damaged.

Unlike the Harpoon case, where the accounts were fudged to justify a purchase, in future there will be many cases where we hear of no decision because no purchases of conventional defence systems will be capable of being made within the defence budget, because the money had been pre-empted by the Trident programme.

That is why Mr Heseltine should go. He prefers posturing to real defence.

Yours sincerely,
ROY GRANTHAM,
General Secretary,
Association of Professional,
Executive, Clerical & Computer Staff,
22 Worple Road, SW19,
April 17.

Fears for the O level
From Mr Douglas Butler,
Sir, Professor Cox and others (April 12) are concerned that a merger of CSE and GCE O-level examinations into a single 16+ structure will allow standards to fall. They are, I think, misinformed on this in common with many other organisations preparing for the change. The MEI (Mathematics for Education and Industry) Schools Project has developed a 16+ mathematics scheme in which the present O-level standards are fully maintained.

Candidates choose any two consecutive papers from four according to their ability. The top two papers cover the O-level syllabus (designed for the top 25 per cent ability range) and, further to this, the additional mathematics syllabus for able pre-A-level pupils (including an introduction to the calculus) is to be maintained as an A-O level examination.

May I therefore urge the professors instead to encourage Sir Keith Joseph to support this change to a more flexible structure. It will enable candidates to derive a greater sense of achievement by answering papers that are more finely tuned to their ability range, a principle strongly advocated in the recent Cockcroft report, *Mathematics Counts*.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS BUTLER, Chairman,
The MEI Schools Project,
41a West Street,
Oundle,
Peterborough,
Cambridgeshire,
April 13.

Sharing our heritage
From Dr Selby Whittingham

Sir, Now that it has been decided that central government should fund directly two provincial galleries, there is no obstacle to relating their purchase grants to those of the national galleries in London.

The latter have very large purchase grants for two distinct reasons: to fill the gaps in their own collections and to preserve our heritage of paintings from going abroad. The provincial galleries have enormously greater gaps and are equally fit repositories for our heritage.

Would the sky fall in if, for one year's experiment, the purchase grants of the National and Tate Galleries were swapped with those of the Laing and Walker art galleries?

Yours faithfully,
SELBY WHITTINGHAM,
153 Cromwell Road, SW5,
April 12.

Copyright reform
From Mr John Deacon and others

Sir, We, the undersigned, represent a very large proportion of those individuals and organisations in this country for whom copyright is the basis for their existence and well-being. They rely heavily upon adequate copyright laws and are disturbed by the apparent lack of progress towards a wholesale revision of what is universally acknowledged to be a seriously outdated Copyright Act.

Implications in the Bettaney case

From Mr Roy Moxham

Sir, You reported (April 11) the Attorney General as saying that some of the material in the Bettaney case was too sensitive for him to see. This implies that there are civil servants with a higher security clearance than the chief law officer of the Crown.

If ministers accept such an absurdity, how can the security services be under democratic control and how can it be ensured that they operate within the law?

Yours faithfully,
ROY MOXHAM,
39 North Road, N7,
April 17.

From Mr Maurice Crump
Sir, In your editorial of April 17 you describe my conduct in the Anthony Blunt case as "a questionable 'no-prosecution' deal to procure his confession".

It would have been impossible to prosecute him as there was then no evidence against him. But he had valuable information to give.

In return for my valueless undertaking not to do the impossible, he was willing to cough up the information he had.

Since the information he gave could not, under our rules of evidence, ever be used against him, your introduction of the word "confession" is inappropriate and misleading.

It is understandable that he wanted the undertaking such as he was given because he was not to know that we had no evidence.

If I had denied this country information which it needed in order to avoid saying that I would not do what we could not do, my conduct would indeed have been questionable.

Now yours is.
Yours faithfully,
MAURICE CRUMP,
No 2, 46 Elm Park Road, SW3,
April 17.

From Dr Anthony Gies
Sir, Although you are right (leading article, April 17) to condemn Mr Bettaney's treachery, it is unfair to suggest that his behaviour was worse than that of "Stalin's Englishmen" in the 1930s.

Philby, Blunt and all the rest of them had ample opportunity to know the truth about Russian totalitarianism; moreover they had worked for Stalin whilst he was Nazi Germany's close ally and Hitler was fighting to destroy this country. On the face of it, it would appear that Bettaney did nothing which Blunt was not doing before him, which is but a further indication to many that Blunt got off far too lightly.

The Bettaney case, however, raises two rather different questions. First, since his trial was secret, it is very hard for us to know whether he accepted Bettaney's word that he became a Communist only in 1962, after he had been in MI5 for seven years. Was there really no evidence

message that the form was with the Immigration Department (another number) because of the question regarding our relative's fiancé.

We ring this other number. They will search for the file; will we hold? No, we will not hold. It's far too expensive.

We arrange to ring back in 10 minutes. Result: the inquiry regarding the fiancé is being "processed". So can they tell us the answer to the main question regarding the relative's status? No, that has been "processed" in the other department (the one we rang originally).

At this point, having spent around £2.50 in phone bills, we wrote to the Nationality Department, asking urgently for the answer to our main question. Four days later we still await a reply.

The total time elapsed since the enquiry was initiated is over two months. No acknowledgment has ever been sent at any stage.

Yours truly,
DOUGLAS M. C. MACLEWAN,
52 Ormonde Road,
Hythe,
Kent,
April 14.

Landscaping and BR
From the Director of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology

Sir, Mr Lovejoy's letter to *The Times* (April 10) on the landscaping by British Rail is hardly fair to British Rail. BR is not unaware of its responsibility for ecological and environmental concerns along the permanent way.

For the past seven years, they have given every cooperation to the staff of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology (ITE) of the Natural Environment Research Council, who have been carrying out a major survey of British Rail land with funding from the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC).

The survey by ITE is now complete and the full details of the results of this survey are embodied in 11 volumes of scientific reports. A

legislative programme and we have pledged our resources to assist the Government in completing the appropriate legislation in time for its introduction into the 1984-1985 session of Parliament.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DEACON,
N. C. ABBOTT,
GILLIAN DAVIES,
J. W. MONT,
D. COBBY,
A. M. POOL,
NICHOLAS,
ALEXANDER,
J. LOVE,
DENIS DE FREITAS,
MICHAEL FREGARD,
MARTIN TEMPA,
PETER PLOUVEZ,
KENNETH MADAMONT,
PHILIP ATTENDOROUGH,
JOHN MORTON,
A. J. EGAN,
MARK SAMUELSON,
c/o The British Phonographic Industry Ltd,
Roxburghe House,
273/287 Regent Street, W1,
April 5.

From Sir Anthony Grant, MP for Cambridgeshire South West (Conservative)
Sir, The most revealing aspect of the Bettaney case was the statement put out, after the verdict, through his solicitors. It was comparable to an essay by lower members of a school fourth-form asked to write a piece of Communist propaganda. Indeed, it might have been written by a Young Conservative as a left-wing "spoof" it was so crude.

This, coupled with Mr Bettaney's apparent interest in Nazism earlier, draws one to the conclusion that either he was mentally unbalanced, or that the whole affair is a colossal double-bluff.

Whichever it was, the public, through Parliament, is entitled to some further explanation and reassurance.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY GRANT,
House of Commons,
April 17.

From Mr Fred Silberman
Sir, *The Times* still big enough to print a view that differs from your own? In your leader (April 17) on the Bettaney case you express "bafflement" by "the continuing ideological pull of the Soviet Union".

This reader is baffled by your "bafflement". A country which has obviously more to gain from peace than war, where there is no unemployment, where the social wage is steadily rising, where new technology is seen to benefit ordinary people rather than multinational corporations and whose government is steadily (albeit too slowly) moving away from repression (instead of towards it), must surely today have attractions for some Britons of independent mind.

You go on to counsel a "tightening-up process" in our "secret services" (there must be a lot of dissidents at GCHQ these days!) but there are alternative policies that you could recommend to reduce disaffection and encourage consensus within the ranks of those who do (and do not) have to sign the Official Secrets Act.

Yours faithfully,
FRED SILBERMAN,
8 Alma Street, NW5,
April 17.

Slow off the mark
From Mr Douglas M. C. MacEwan, FRSE

Sir, I do not suppose many people will grudge Zola Budd the promptness with which her naturalization request has been granted by the Home Office. What a pity that, when dealing with ordinary British citizens, that same Home Office acts tardily and ineffectively, without even such degree of courtesy as is normal in business.

Some two months ago we sent them an enquiry regarding the status of a relative of mine, a Spanish national and his status if he wished to work in this country. We had to wait a week to get our own letter back, with a message written at the bottom of it, to fill up "the enclosed form" (In the meantime, by the way, we had already got a reply back from the Spanish Consulate General).

After six weeks with not even an acknowledgment we decided to phone the Home Office Nationality Department in Croydon, although, as we are on pension, our phone bills are a matter of anxious consideration.

After two calls, we got the

summary of the results, entitled *British Railway Vegetation*, has just been published by ITE. Discussions between NCC, ITE and BR on the dissemination of results and proposals arising from the survey have been held and BR has recently circulated notes to its regional staff on vegetation management based on ITE's research.

Thus, though management may not have been ideal in the past, it will, in future, be more firmly based on ecological knowledge and experience.

This institute is continuing to monitor a selected series of sites and to experiment with management systems for BR land.

Yours faithfully,
J. N. R. JEFFERS, Director,
The Institute of Terrestrial Ecology,
Merlewood Research Station,
Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria.

Good dressing down
From Mr J. Bunting

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Ian McIntyre (April 16) rightly draws attention to the prejudice that can accrue to a defendant in the esteem of his jury if his counsel summons challenges jurors in waiting readily identifiable from their appearance as having some feature in common, be it prosperity, race or sex.

That the answer lies in counsel's own hands was demonstrated to the writer some years ago when he was sitting as instructing solicitor with counsel who, on the trial of an Irish salesman for fraud, challenged two gentlemen, such as Mr McIntyre, in dark business suits and a third wearing jeans, open-neck shirt and red beard.

Upon enquiry as to the reasons for the last choice of challenge, counsel replied: "For benefit of the jury - to give respectability to the other two challenges".

Yours truly,
J. BUNTING,
Heathview Cottage,
Smallale,
Buxton,
Derbyshire,
April 16.

Rank favouritism over careers

From Mr P. H. Turner

Sir, I refer to your comment on Tapper and Salter's forthcoming book under the headline "Paying for education 'will not buy a brighter future'" (April 16, page 3).

As part of my work, I attend all careers conventions in this area, representing either my college or a major professional association. Recently, I attended conventions at both a comprehensive school and a well known independent school.

At the comprehensive, the Army, Air Force and the Navy were represented by two sergeants, a flying officer, and a chief petty officer respectively. At the independent school, the three Services were again represented: the Army by a brigadier and a lieutenant-colonel, the Air Force by a group captain, and the Navy by a full captain (captain, R.N., of course).

There are those, Sir, who would consider we are still two nations. Yours,
P. H. TURNER,
Barnsley College of Technology,
Faculty of Humanities,
Church Street,
Barnsley,
South Yorkshire,
April 16.

'The Observer' report

From the President of the Institute of Journalists

Sir, The terms of Mr "Tiny" Rowland's letter to the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe and its public release merit your description "astonishing" (report, April 17). Otherwise there is little about the incident that was not foreseen.

When the sale of *The Observer* to Lonrho was examined in 1981 the Institute of Journalists pointed out to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that the newspaper was held in high esteem in overseas countries where the company had substantial interests. We continued: "... sooner or later the exercise of genuine editorial independence by the newspaper would be thought by the company to be harmful to its interests when dealing with people in countries where the concept of such independence is little understood and even less respected..."

In such circumstances the temptation to interfere in editorial decisions might prove "irresistible". We therefore urged that "the most stringent guarantees of editorial independence are secured before approval is given to the sale".

Clearly these guarantees are about to be tested, but in the meantime Mr Rowland would do well to recognise that there is likely to be continuing conflict between his obligations to *The Observer* and to Lonrho shareholders.

He should resolve it by looking now for a suitable new proprietor for this distinguished newspaper. Yours sincerely,
BARRIE FARNILL, President,
Institute of Journalists,
Bedford Chambers,
Covent Garden, WC2,
April 17.

'Evening Post' dispute

From Ms Rochelle Wilson

Sir, Mr Pole-Carew, in his letter of April 13, warns us that we should take care not to overstretch the truth in the matter of our dispute with his organization.

I would suggest to him that he casts his mind back to 1979 and to the events at the very heart of the dispute. It serves little use for him to brag of having some union members at T. Bailey Forman, where they may carry cards but have no union rights, or to deny quotes attributed to him by the minutes of a meeting he attended.

The fact of the matter remains that when 28 NUJ members on the *Nottingham Evening Post* came out in a perfectly legitimate strike they were sacked. Later, when the dispute, over pay, was settled, the NUJ and the Newspaper Society, which represented the *Nottingham Evening Post*, signed a return-to-work agreement which included the provision that all strikers who were sacked by newspaper managements would be reinstated.

All newspapers represented by the Newspaper Society chose to abide by that agreement, except the *Evening Post*. Mr Pole-Carew tore up that document, so he needs to preach to us about overstretching the truth or about our members breaking contracts of employment by striking.

Yours sincerely,
ROCHELLE WILSON,
Nottingham branch of the NUJ,
142 Victoria Street,
Newark,
Nottinghamshire,
April 14.

KEEPING CHEMICALS IN THE BOTTLE

This ought to be a very propitious moment for getting chemical weapons under control on the lines suggested by Mr Bush in Geneva yesterday. The use of gas in the Gulf war has heightened awareness of the dangers and shown up the diminishing effectiveness of the Geneva protocol of 1925. The Russians are showing interest, and frustration in other areas of arms control should increase the impetus to succeed in this one. Better still, chemical weapons are in their infancy in terms of development, in spite of their long history. They have not proliferated to the same extent as nuclear weapons and no state relies on them for its security, so they should be easier to bottle up. Furthermore, everyone is aware that if they are not bottled up there could be a new surge of development that would make the danger of chemical war a close rival to the danger of nuclear war, particularly in the Third World.

The American draft treaty should therefore be warmly welcomed. It follows the British proposals tabled in Geneva in February and develops some of the ideas outlined then by Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office. Whereas the Geneva protocol of 1925 banned only the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons, the new American draft would ban use, production, possession, storage and export. All signatories would agree to destroy existing stocks and manufactur-

ing plants and allow inspectors to check that they had done so.

Verification is obviously the central issue. Without satisfactory verification, no one is going to take a chance on trusting an adversary to abide by the treaty. But inspection of chemical weaponry is if anything even more difficult than inspection of nuclear weaponry. Many chemical weapons can be produced by simply combining two otherwise innocent chemicals. This means that almost any country above the very lowest level of development could acquire significant offensive capacity since it would need only fairly simple means of delivery.

The prospect of a chemical weapons race building up in the Third World is horrifying but real. Many developing countries might regard chemical weapons as relatively inexpensive protection against nuclear blackmail as well as a means of threatening their neighbours. Yet the fear that this prospect engenders seems to have opened many minds to the need for controls. It may also be responsible for signs of movement in the Soviet position on verification. Last February the Russians agreed that international inspection teams could observe the destruction of stocks of chemical weapons. Given the profound Soviet antipathy to anyone inspecting anything on Soviet territory this is progress, but it is not enough. To have any chance of being effective, verification would have to include both

routine monitoring of production facilities on the same lines as the monitoring of nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency, and spot checks of suspicious goings on. There would also have to be some inspection of the civilian chemical industry.

The Russians show no sign of being willing to go that far, and their first reaction to Mr Bush's proposal, before it was even tabled, was very hostile, accusing the United States of blocking efforts to reach agreement by "putting forward obviously unacceptable conditions" in order to "camouflage plans for building US chemical arsenals". This is a fairly normal Soviet reaction to any new proposal. It may also reflect Soviet reluctance to assist Mr Reagan's election campaign by coming even a short way to meet him. But it is important to press on.

Since the breakdown of talks on both strategic and European nuclear weapons the only negotiations showing any signs of life are the Vienna talks on conventional troop reductions and the Stockholm conference on confidence-building measures. Both these are useful efforts and may gradually produce modest results but the hydra-headed nature of the arms race requires simultaneous efforts on as many fronts as possible. Chemical weapons are particularly nasty, threatening and destabilizing. The American efforts deserves success.

SPONSORED SACRIFICE

The concept of sacrifice serves many purposes, and appears in different forms. In many religions, tomorrow's commemoration, the second and central element in the Christian triple alliance of birth, crucifixion and resurrection, is one manifestation: indeed it is the full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction.

To others than practising Christians, it is something else than that. It is a pivotal reminder of their own calendar of events, and an acknowledgment of death and suffering. Sacrifice will be to the fore in many minds, religious or otherwise.

It may be a defensive, obligatory or joyous self-offering. It may be expiatory, placatory, or simply ritual. It may already have been, for even non-devout and non-practising Christians, a token devotion, like giving up sweets for Lent. Those who have done so will be looking forward to Saturday.

But many people will be out this weekend pursuing the new form of recreational sacrifice which has overtaken, for them at least, the inspirational and even the ascetical. They will be riding bicycles, walking, jogging, hopping, skipping and jumping; and

they will be providing a vicarious form of sacrifice for other groups.

Sponsorship has become the offering. It provides its own triple alliance of good cause, personal achievement and community participation. A new Cub hut is desired; boys can "work" towards its building, and parents can help from their purse. The Cathedral needs restoring; cyclists can show their long distance prowess and the diocese can contribute a share towards the goal. Medical research always has another field to explore; darts players need practice and spectators can enjoy the long game.

All these fulfill the straight definition of the sacrifice as the means of gaining something desirable, (a Cub hut), or of preventing some evil (children's illness) by the surrender of something of value (time and money). They do not all set out, of course, to fulfil the sacred criterion in the definition, and so it is no great wonder that so few of them approach it.

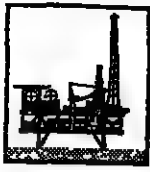
The knock on the door, and the proffered form, with the reminder that neighbours have "gone up to" five pence a round, mile or bull's eye, draws atten-

tion to the cause and the competitive sharing in its fulfilment. While the cause may be good, its achievement may be coming very cheaply; it is, generally, physically good for people to become healthier and fitter as by the sponsored sporting activities and likewise it is generally emotionally good for the community to work together. The "sponsor" however may well be left with the impression that his or her effort was sufficient.

Money, alone or instead, never is. Although the monetary approach may be more efficient than the labours of weekend amateurs, dipping into a pocket to provide aid in this form avoids the spiritual question, and contribution. Communities once would give their time, energy and devotion to meeting needs, spiritual and temporal, by working together to build a church, or taking care of elderly neighbours. A penny a lap for someone else's effort does not reveal the troubled spirit which is the first step on the road to sacrifice, and is no more delightful than the burnt-offering disparaged by the Psalmist. For the hearts sake, hands would be better applied to the task, and not to the pocket.

Kuwait

This tiny, oil-rich state, with a native population of only 630,000, is increasingly feeling the effects of the war between its powerful neighbours, Iran and Iraq. This Special Report looks at the impact on the Emirate of the Gulf War and the present fall in oil revenues.



Kuwait not so long ago stopped women drivers from wearing yashmaks, for fear that the thinly veiled disguise could too easily conceal an all-male terrorist. Few precautions could so graphically display the jangled nerves within this tiny Arab state.

In March its defence ministry went further by announcing a mobilization plan, the first of its kind to be enacted in the Gulf, to help its largely conscript army prepare to defend its national integrity against any threat - declared or undeclared. Stability remains, but it can no longer be taken for granted.

The first big shock to its system was delivered last December 12 when seven bombs within the space of 90 minutes injured more than 80 and killed six, four of them in the compound of the United States embassy. An Iraqi-born immigrant, a Shiite fanatic, steered the lorry-load of explosives to his own death at the US embassy, but his identification which ensued, did little to reassure ministers. The violence which they had feared for so long had finally arrived.

Wedge into a corner of the Gulf between more powerful neighbours, Kuwait has always looked vulnerable. Its unequivocal support for Iraq during the 3½-year-old war with Iran has mended broken fences with Baghdad, but has hardly done much for its relations with Tehran. And with Tehran now on the offensive, it is arguable that Kuwait has backed the wrong side.

Financially its support for the Iraqis is thought to be second only to that of Saudi Arabia. The use of its port facilities and overland route has moreover been of inestimable help to President Saddam Husain as he seeks to maintain the flow of arms to his embattled army.

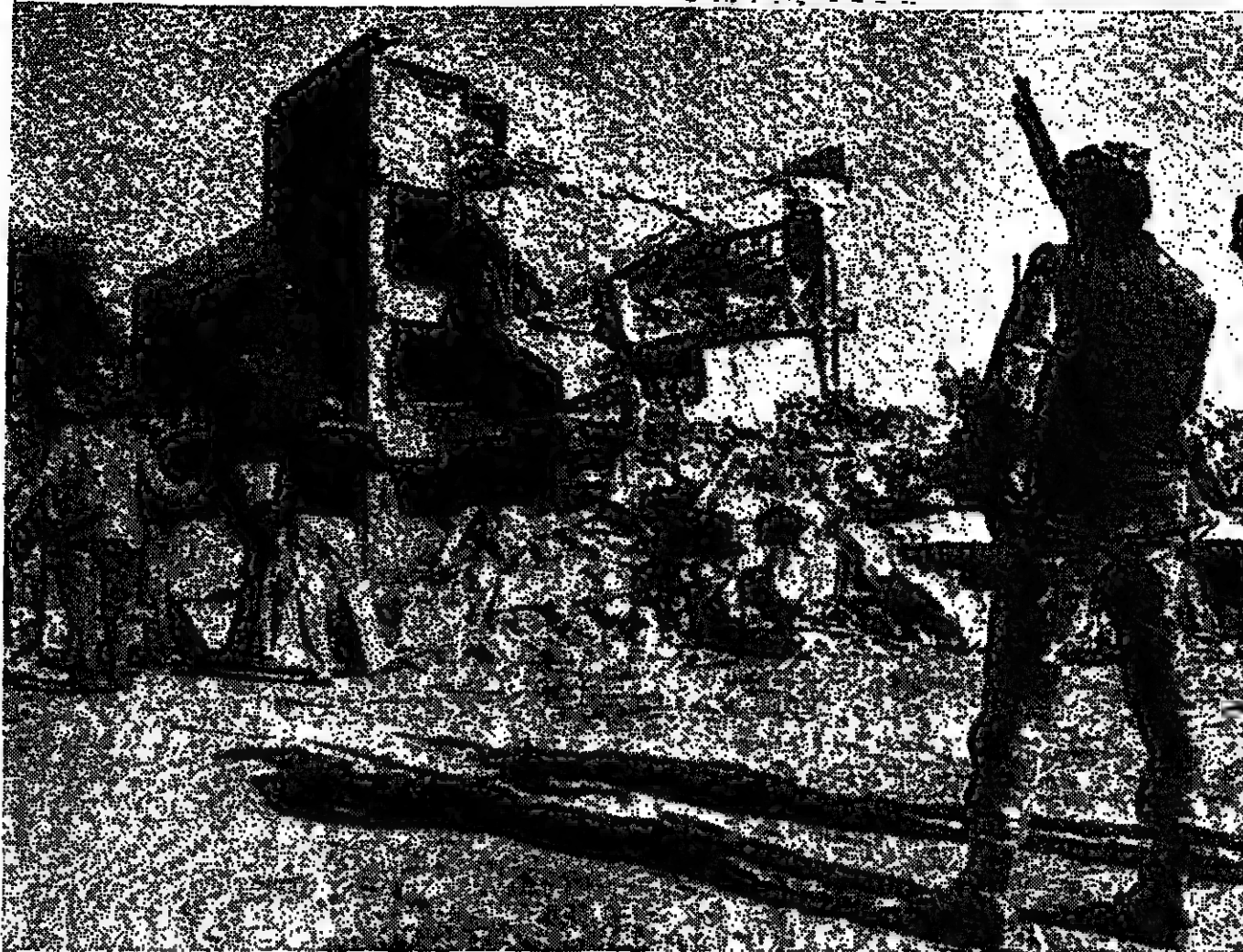
Kuwaitis have long lived in fear of reprisals from Ayatollah Khomeini and the December bombs were a sharp reminder. What would be worse, however, would be a successful outcome to Iranian attempts to cut off Iraq from the north, dangerously exposing the tiny state to Iranian revenge. At one time Kuwaitis might have drawn some satisfaction from the sight of two such rumbustious Gulf neighbours preoccupied by a quarrel between themselves. But the fear that the fighting might spill over, embroiling other countries like itself, has long been the dominant reaction.

Last year Kuwait untied a peace mission to Tehran and Baghdad which at first showed promising signs of progress. But the initiative collapsed like a pack of cards, since when Kuwait has watched the conflict grow nearer and nearer. Kuwaiti ministers look uneasily at the country's minority groups meanwhile.

Only 630,000 - 42 per cent - of its 1.5m people are full Kuwaiti citizens. The rest embrace 100 different nationalities, or so it is said, including a large British population of 7,000 and a still larger grouping of Palestinians. About one in every four people in Kuwait is a Palestinian, which partly explains why the government is among the strongest supporters of the Palestinian cause in the Gulf.

Moreover, 40 per cent of the 630,000 full-blooded Kuwaitis are Shia Moslems. These Shiites historically have not been a problem for Kuwait. But their presence has made for a certain unease after the Iranian revolution. It has made ministers realize that internal and external stability remains something that they have to work at.

The concern for security has come after a period of financial worries too, after the collapse of the Suk al-Manakh, the unofficial stock exchange, over 18 months ago. The collapse happened when investors who



Violence shocks Kuwait. A soldier stands guard over the badly-damaged American embassy after an explosives-laden truck was driven at it by a terrorist. Above right, a happier moment in a local school. More than half of all Kuwaitis are under 18.



A rush of names for the new Assembly

The Kuwait National Assembly is the only elected body in Arabia, a distinction of which the Kuwaitis are justifiably proud. "We are a democratic country," they proclaim on a variety of occasions - from the announcement of a wide range of sentences on those found guilty for their part in the December bombings, to the government's refusal to sign a bilateral security pact with Saudi Arabia which would contravene the constitution.

The Assembly can be an excuse, a scapegoat, somewhere to pass the buck. It is a sounding board for public opinion and occasionally a useful check on the government which has learnt to respect most of its opinion.

There have been angry debates in the past over the reduction of fuel subsidies and there will undoubtedly be more over the cost of Kuwait's extensive and expensive welfare state. The Assembly is also self-appointed watchdog of the constitution.

It is the offspring of earlier pre-independence elected bodies, looking after education, health and finance. It opened in 1962 and immediately made an argumentative name for itself even on non-controversial issues. This came to a head in 1976 when the Emir dismissed the Assembly for a cooling-off period. Elections were held four years later as promised by the Emir. Since then the Assembly has taken a slightly more conciliatory line. New elections are due to be held around the end of this year.

There are 50 members, sitting for 25 constituencies. Their powers are limited - the Council of Ministers submits

legislation which the Assembly debates, accepting or rejecting but not modifying. However, while the government can legislate by decree in an emergency, only the Assembly can declare an emergency exists, a balance of power which recognises an underlying community of interests.

It is popular with Kuwaitis, more than a thousand names have been entered for this year's elections. The electorate is small: 40-45,000 voters out of a total population of around 1.5 million. Women do not have the vote (the Assembly firmly rejected the suggestion by the Crown Prince that they should) nor do the newly-settled beduin on the fringe of Kuwait society who do, however, have welfare benefits. Nor of course do over half the population which is expatriate (including 300,000 Palestinians).

Ministers are ex-officio members of the Assembly and traditionally one member is chosen by the Assembly to be its representative in the Council of Ministers - in this case Issa Mazidi, the Minister of Communications. The number of ministers in the government may not exceed one-third of the total membership of the Assembly. But the country needs more ministers: the burden of government is now far too heavy for the present team.

The issue has already come to a head once in the form of an attempted trade-off: the Assembly, in return for permitting an increase in membership and therefore in the number of ministers, wanted to have a representative on the Constitutional Court. That was con-

had been speculating recklessly in shares, suddenly found themselves unable to honour post-dated cheques following a sudden plunge in share prices. In February this year the government announced that it was setting up a new company to take over the shares and property of those dealers who went bankrupt - with the government itself retaining 40 per cent ownership of the enterprise. But the shock waves are only now subsiding.

Welfare benefit to be cut

Kuwait has also suffered the effects of the world recession and oil glut. But the suffering has been relative and as one observer put it there must be many countries in the world who would love to be as badly off as Kuwait. On the other hand the government looks like being forced to cut welfare benefits and subsidies - on electricity for example, which is

amazingly cheap - unless and until oil revenue begins to grow again. Government spending has been steadily increasing and it looks unlikely to stop doing so unless ministers exercise unusual restraint. This too, comes at a time when there is some pressure for the central authority to spend more, not less.

The government has huge investments in other countries, including West Germany and the United States. But the combined effects of falling revenue and the collapse at the Suk have been to shake confidence among its business community. Then more recently have followed the December bombs and the sudden deterioration, from the Kuwaiti point of view, in the Gulf War.

In terms of international politics, Kuwait has adopted a policy of careful non-alignment. Given its precarious position, its oil wealth and its population mix, this would seem to be a wise decision. Its armed forces have a strength of 12,500, thanks to a 18-month-long

national service, and are well-equipped. But they are clearly not large enough to resist aggression by a big and determined aggressor.

Kuwait is the one Gulf state to have full diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and to play a diplomatic role quite disproportionate to its size. On the other hand it remains a Western state, whose real interests are tied to those of the capitalist world. Some of its military equipment is Russian but most has been purchased in the United States or western Europe. Indeed much of it is still British, including Chieftain tanks, and Saladin, Saracen and Ferret armoured vehicles. A £70m order for 12 British Aerospace Hawk trainer aircraft was announced last year.

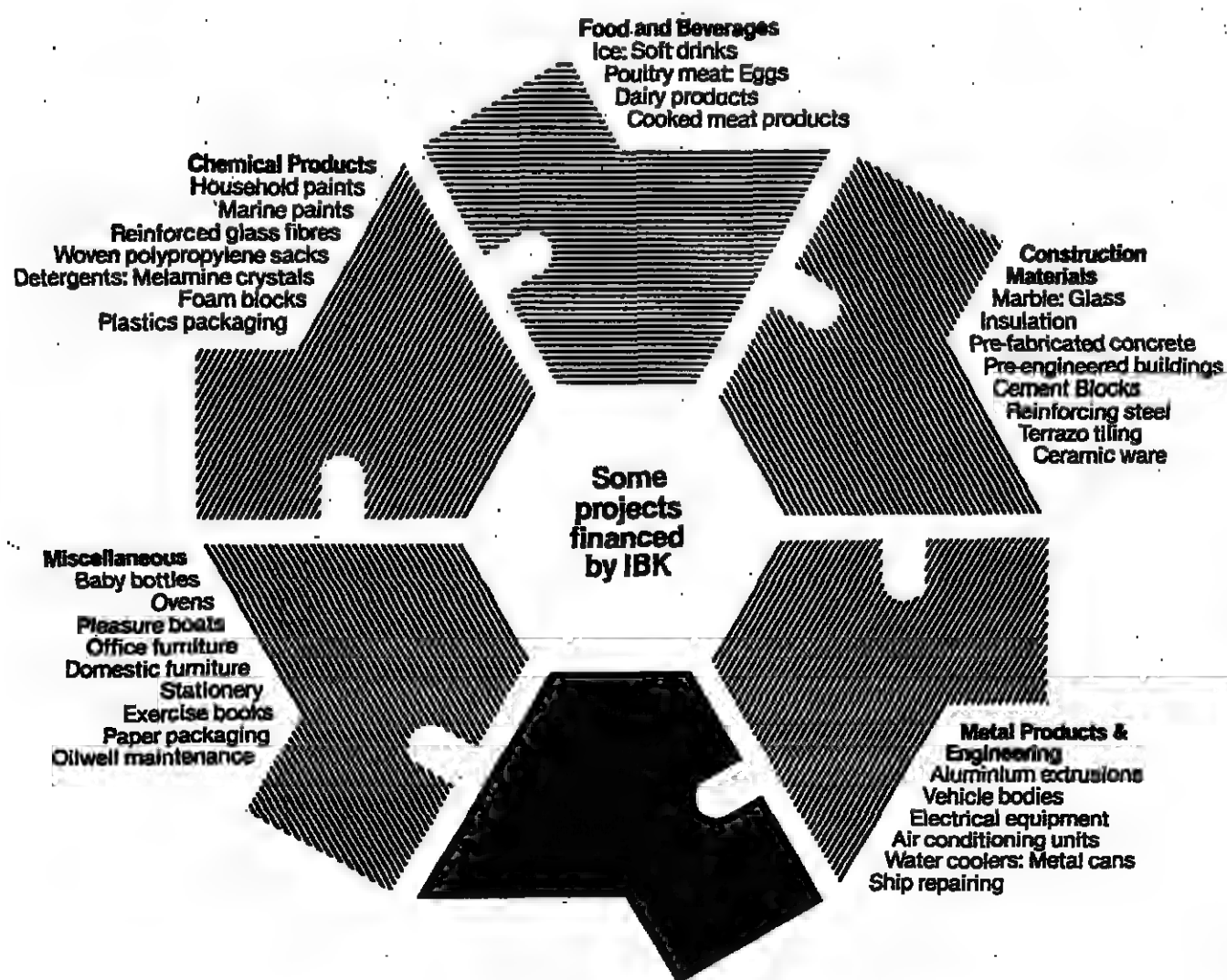
The relationship with Britain remains close, as is reflected by the high number of expatriates living and working there. Last year Britain exported £330m worth of goods to Kuwait and imported only £67m worth in return - mostly oil for blending with the home-produced North

Sea extract. That is by any standards a satisfactory balance from Britain's point of view.

Exports could be higher. The last published list of countries exporting to Kuwait showed Britain in only fifth place with 7.2 per cent of the market, behind Japan - far out in front with 22 per cent, the United States with 11 per cent, West Germany 10.1 per cent and Italy 7.8 per cent.

One product Britain is unlikely to sell much of in Kuwait is whisky. Kuwaitis pride themselves on their relative sophistication and their women certainly enjoy a degree of freedom far higher than in say, Saudi Arabia, driving their own cars and holding down jobs. But the consumption of alcohol has become progressively more illegal with the import of drinks banned now even for thirsty foreign embassies. Of that policy anyway the Iranian revolutionary government would entirely approve.

Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent



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KUWAIT



Market day Kuwait-style. In two decades the country has been transformed from an economic backwater into one of the world's most prosperous and stable states, providing its citizens with generous welfare benefits.

No crisis yet in the economy

Kuwait's economy has received more coverage lately in the western financial press than ever before, although this has concentrated, somewhat unfairly, on the country's economic woes.

The state still relies on oil royalties and the taxation of oil company profits for most of its fiscal revenue, but oil production has fallen to a third of its 1979 level. Oil prices also fell by 15 per cent in 1983, so the government has been unable to finance its expenditure from current receipts. Hence the budget deficit for the 1983/84 fiscal year is expected to amount to KD568m (about £239m), compared to a surplus of KD741m for the 1981/82 fiscal year.

Fortunately, the Kuwaiti government has a large amount of investment income which it earns from its overseas asset holdings, mainly in the form of US government securities. Falling oil revenue in 1981 was more than compensated for by the rise in investment income as US interest rates rose to record postwar levels.

With the decline in interest rates during the last two years, however, Kuwait's investment income has also fallen, although it is still enough to cover the budget deficit without the need to sell off the overseas assets, and repatriate the proceeds to Kuwait.

With its large reserves of liquid assets, the government is

far from facing a budgetary crisis. It is still able to pay 10 per cent of its oil revenues into the Fund for Future Generations, which is to provide alternative overseas earnings when oil eventually runs out. Nevertheless, there are worries about the level of government expenditure, and this is proving difficult to stop from rising.

The wages of government employees have been temporarily frozen, but it is far from easy to contain the level of government subsidies on many basic services. Electricity consumers, for example, are charged only a fraction of what the electricity costs to produce and domestic water is also heavily subsidised. Any reduction in the level of subsidy would be controversial, however, and certain, to provoke, strong protests in the National Assembly.

Kuwait has excellent communications and transport facilities, and most future expenditure will be on the maintenance of existing roads rather than new construction. Work is continuing on projects which are at an advanced stage, such as phase II of the motorway system, phase I having already been completed. Contracts are also likely to be awarded later this year and in 1985 for the inner ring road, including the waterfront section.

The future of other major projects is less certain. These include the buildings of a new dormitory city at Sobiya and the developing of communications links with Bubiyan Island on the border of Iraq. Both projects seem probable.

victims of the budgetary cuts now being considered. There is opposition to government expenditure cut-backs from Kuwait's merchant community who realize that economic activity, and hence the volume of their trade, depends largely on the level of government spending. The reduction in the land purchase scheme has been particularly unpopular, with expenditure halved since 1981. Under this scheme the Kuwait government purchased land from local citizens at vastly inflated prices.

This means of acquiring land for public works ensured that local property-owning citizens, the key supporters of the government, benefited from the state's oil wealth. Land prices have been falling in the last two years, partly as a result of the Suk al-Manakh crisis and its effect on private liquidity. Many hoped in these circumstances that the government would increase its land purchases to inject some money into the real estate sector, rather than reduce its spending.

Despite the large fall in the value of oil exports, Kuwait's balance of payments remains healthy, with imports consuming only 65 per cent of export revenue. Imports have nevertheless been growing steadily and eventually the balance of payments will deteriorate unless the value of oil exports returns to its former level.

Fortunately any deterioration in the visible trade balance is likely to be offset by the interest profit and dividend earnings from overseas invest-

ments. Though the Kuwait government's overseas investments have not grown in the last two years, the value of private investments overseas has continued to rise.

The balance of payments would also be helped if the outflow of remittances from the foreign workers resident in Kuwait were reduced. In recent years the latter has levelled off, partly because the influx of new workers has fallen.

There will probably be less need for foreign workers by the end of the 1980s. Suitably qualified Kuwaitis are now available for most clerical and administrative jobs in government and commerce and many competently serve in the highest positions.

There are strong political pressures to reduce the number of foreign workers. Non-Kuwaitis already comprise 60 per cent of the population, and some National Assembly members regard them as a drain on the country's resources rather than an asset. Since the car bombings of last December, there is close vetting of the background of migrants, and the labour law is to be tightened with a ban on the transfer of sponsorship from one employer to another. The issue of new work permits to private sector firms has been halted, except where the firms are engaged on government contracts.

Rodney Wilson

The author is senior lecturer in the Economics of the Middle East at Durham University.

A rush for the Assembly

(continued from page 15)

considered too great an extension of the Assembly's powers and the government backed down on its proposal for more ministers.

The Assembly is in many ways the guardian of the constitution. Constitutions have a tendency to acquire the nature of sacred documents and that of Kuwait is no exception. In an insecure world it is an anchor which no one dares shift, and there is a general feeling that any attempt to change it would open a Pandora's box of problems.

Members sit in rows facing the Speaker and ministers; there is no official opposition. There are four Shia members. There is also a fundamentalist caucus of around five members, which can grow on certain issues such as last year, the abrogation of diplomatic alcohol privileges and the segregation of university cafeterias.

Ministers have full voting rights and can swing legislative decisions in the government's favour. This can aggravate the acrimony between government and Assembly and there have been angry confrontations over the government's handling of the Suk al-Manakh crisis, with the Assembly accusing the government of letting the bigger fish off the hook.

Some observers point out that the Assembly, with its narrow franchise, is no more representative of the country as a whole than the ruling family and Council of Ministers with all their extensions and contacts in so small a society.

A country the size of Kuwait with such indefensible borders and so heterogeneous a population could develop a sense of insecurity as threatening to national stability as its neighbours to the north and east. There were some fairly extreme reactions in the Assembly to the December bombings, with calls for stricter controls of the non-Kuwaiti population.

The handsome new Assembly building on the sea front (designed by Jom Utzon of Sydney opera house fame) faces bravely towards Kuwait's warring neighbours; those elected to sit inside will need all the courage of their convictions of national rectitude if the antagonists ever decide to extend the war zone.

Sarah Searight

1983-YEAR OF STEADY PROGRESS WITH CUSTOMER SERVICE FOREMOST.

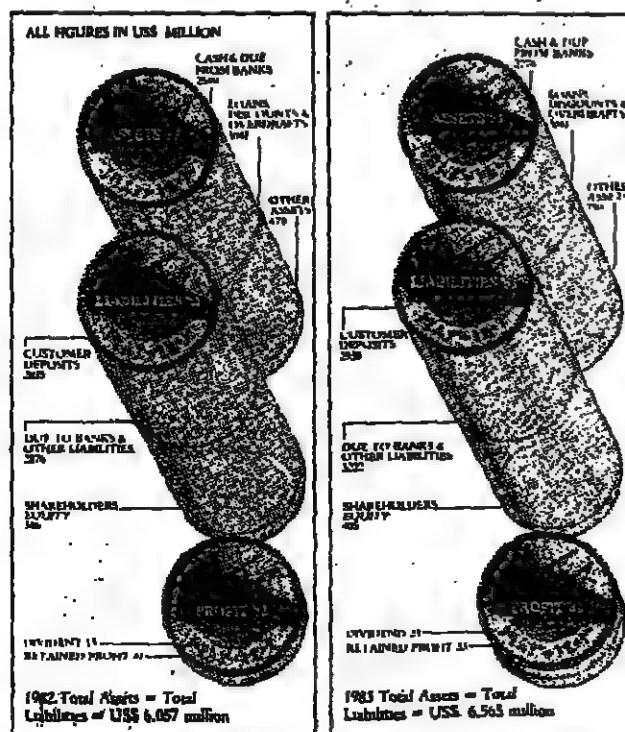
The Commercial Bank of Kuwait maintains positive trend in growth and profits.

Despite uncertain market conditions during 1983, The Commercial Bank of Kuwait has continued its positive trend in profits and total balance sheet, and the development of its capabilities in key areas.

Profits and Dividends Rise

The Bank reported profits of US\$56.1 million, an increase of 4.7% over 1982. Total assets grew to US\$6,565 million, an increase of 8.4%. The balance sheet also reflected an increase in holdings of high-yielding notes and bonds. A dividend of US\$22.6 million was declared, representing 18% on the nominal value of each share, compared with 12½% in 1982. Shareholders' equity increased by 17% to US\$403.7 million including an increase in general and statutory reserves of 13% to US\$277 million.

Domestic Markets
On the home front, the Bank financed several major investments, including electrical and gas utility projects, large housing developments, telephone installations, warehouse construction and projects for the petro-chemical industry. A number of



FINANCIAL RESULTS AT A GLANCE

innovations, aimed at improving customer service were introduced. Notable among these were the new automated teller machine service, Ayto Bank — the largest and most sophisticated network in the Middle East — which has won widespread consumer acceptance, and the new teller terminal system which has greatly improved the

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The Bank lead managed seven major syndicated loans and was co-lead manager, or a participant in a number more, mainly in corporate and OECD sovereign risks, and has continued to expand and

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An application was filed in August 1983 to open a Federal Branch in New York City. This branch, which will be Commercial Bank's first international branch will open in mid-1984. Other possibilities for international locations are being explored.

Outlook

The year ahead will see the need for further major adjustments by the banking community to changing world conditions. Our developments during 1983, both in consolidating the base of our activities and in innovation of our services allows us to face the future with confidence and determination.

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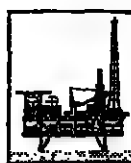
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Commercial Bank of Kuwait البنك التجاري الكويتي

The oil that may be best left underground



Though crude oil production remains at only just over one third of its 1979 level, prospects for Kuwait's oil sector appear more encouraging than at any time for four years, and the long-term future looks promising. The production cutbacks which Kuwait implemented to maintain Opec prices have not only served that organization well, but may prove to be in the lasting interests of Kuwait itself.

If the country can export oil products rather than merely crude oil, it will of course earn more foreign exchange. The oil sector will also be much more closely linked with the rest of Kuwait's economy, with favourable spin-offs for employment and domestic income generally. The diversification strategy for the oil sector has involved several developments. Foremost has been the installation of substantial refining capacity. Kuwait has been refining a small proportion of its oil output for the domestic market for almost 40 years, but it is only recently that oil has been refined for export.

Today refining capacity is close to 600,000 barrels a day, of which only 80,000 to 100,000 barrel a day is required for the local market, the rest available for export. By 1986 refining capacity will be expanded to 664,000 barrel a day, with most of the additional refined production also being sent overseas.

Competition in international markets for refined products is nevertheless intense, and is likely to become even more severe in the late 1980s. There has been substantial overcapacity in refining in Europe for more than a decade, and many refineries have been closed, or produce only a fraction of their potential output.

By 1986 Saudi Arabia will be able to produce 1.5 million barrels a day of refined oil. The Kuwait Petroleum Company (KPC) is well aware of the potential rivalry, and has already taken preemptive action to increase its share in the international market, particularly in Europe. Rather than marketing refined products through the multi-national oil companies, KPC has decided to take over retail outlets directly itself.

After the purchase of 750 petrol

stations in the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Belgium from Gulf Oil for \$150m in 1982, last year KPC purchased a further 825 petrol stations in Denmark, also from Gulf Oil. It is through these retail outlets that KPC plans to market most of its refined production.

With these purchases KPC acquired two refineries, a 75,000 barrels a day plant in The Netherlands, and an 85,000 barrel a day refinery in Denmark. The future of these refineries now looks uncertain in so far as they make the same range of products as the KPC's own installations in Kuwait itself.

KPC is now anxious to acquire the Gulf Oil's retail outlets in the United Kingdom. Gulf wants to sell off its refinery in Milford Haven to the Kuwaiti National Assembly. If this goes ahead the future of the Milford Haven refinery will also be in question.

As the Kuwait National Assembly approved a record budget of KD3,223m expenditure for the KPC for the financial year 1983/84, there can be little doubt that the company has the resources to purchase Gulf Oil's British interests.

Kuwait is not only investing in downstream activities in oil, it has a financial stake in oil companies undertaking exploration and drilling worldwide. KPC has acquired a medium-size US oil company, Santa Fe, which has been drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. In addition in 1981 KPC set up a wholly owned subsidiary, the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company.

Kuwait's gas resources are much more limited than those of other oil producers in the Gulf such as Abu Dhabi or Qatar. The limited amount of associated gas has fallen with the decrease in oil production since 1979, and by 1983 production of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) was under half its 1979 level.

There is now a shortage of gas in Kuwait, and the power stations have been forced to use heavy crude oil to generate electricity rather than using gas. The situation has become so serious that Kuwait has decided to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) to overcome its own shortage of gas for electricity generation.

As gas is also used to power the petrochemical plants producing

ammonia and urea, these have been obliged to cut back production. Kuwait's only long term hope for assured gas supplies is the proposed regional gas grid currently being studied by the secretariat of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

As it seems unlikely that any natural gas will be found on Kuwaiti territory, the future of gas production will depend on what happens to crude oil output, of which the country's gas is a by-product. The level of crude oil production in turn depends largely on the state of the world petroleum market. Although this is still depressed, last year saw a 10 per cent rise in Kuwait's crude oil production from its 1982 level, and a similar increase is expected this year.

If these modest rises can be maintained, the Kuwait government will probably be well satisfied, as there is little desire to return to the 1979 level of production.

Many argue that oil in the ground is potentially more valuable than the foreign financial assets owned by the Kuwait government's Fund for Future Generations.

R W

OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION

| Year | Crude Oil (million barrels) | Refined Oil (million barrels) | Liquefied Petroleum Gas (million barrels) | Natural Gas (thousand million cubic feet) |
|------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| 1976 | 785.0 | 132.0 | 14.5 | 395.8 |
| 1977 | 718.1 | 125.1 | 20.6 | 362.6 |
| 1978 | 770.0 | 130.5 | 19.9 | 392.9 |
| 1979 | 911.2 | 150.6 | 46.4 | 460.4 |
| 1980 | 607.3 | 123.1 | 35.7 | 310.1 |
| 1981 | 411.2 | 130.0 | 22.0 | 223.8 |
| 1982 | 300.2 | 153.3 | 14.3 | 162.7 |
| 1983 | 331.2 | 168.0 | 20.8 | 170.2 |

Source: Central Bank of Kuwait Quarterly Statistical Bulletin, Oct-Dec 1983

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Banks: now it's the customer who knows best

The first man to try to use one of Commercial Bank of Kuwait's automated teller machines at night was immediately arrested. The night watchman thought he was trying to rob the bank. Times have changed since then, as Kuwaitis have adopted the machines with the same enthusiasm they show for all forms of technology.

The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) has reaped the benefits of its investment in the country's largest network of automated teller machines and what is reputed to be the best on-line computer system in the country. For the once-despised individual customer has become an important element in the bank's efforts to recover

from the recession that has hurt its results for the past two years.

To counter the popularity of CBK's machines with civil servants drawing salaries, the market leader National Bank of Kuwait has been forced into the old-fashioned stratagem of opening its branches for three hours in the afternoon in the final week of each month.

This is perhaps a strange approach to the banks' problem, which essentially consists of being awash with funds that it has nowhere to place profitably.

But bankers have become aware that the days of easy pickings from commercial and contractor clients and name lending to wealthy individual borrowers, are probably over for good. They are therefore forced into seeking new sources of business.

The reasons for the situation are clear. The years of boom when the economy grew by leaps and bounds on the back of apparently ever-rising oil revenues have been brought to an end by the world oil glut. The economy is in the deepest recession experienced for perhaps 30 years. The Gulf war has hurt Kuwait's transit trade and local manufacturing and commerce. The Suk al-Manakh (unofficial stock market) crash has left many individuals and companies who indulged in heavy speculation on the verge of bankruptcy.

The result is that many individuals and firms have little idea of their financial status, since efforts by the government to settle Manakh debts are still far from successful some 18 months after the crash. The banks are in no better position to judge the credit-worthiness of borrowers.

The banks thus have a major problem on their hands. Clients seeking money are mostly of dubious credit-worthiness. Those in a good financial position do not need the money, since few merchants or industrialists are investing in the present economic climate.

The result was a small drop in credit facilities for the private sector - the first for at least 15 years.

Total assets of the commercial banks in consequence grew by less than 10 per cent compared with 20 percent the previous year and a 32 per cent growth average in the three years before that. The days when bank assets doubled every three years - as they did in the 1970s - appear to have gone forever.

Matters would have been worse but for the banks' eager acquisition of a new asset - the Government bonds given in compensation to small investors hurt in the Manakh crash. These give a safe though unexciting 7.5 per cent return, and can be rediscounted at the

central bank for 7.25 per cent. They are therefore counted as part of a bank's liquid assets for reserve purposes, potentially releasing other funds for more profitable investment, if any can be found.

The popularity of the bonds is such that they now represent a substantial proportion of bank assets - reaching a remarkable 9.5 per cent in the case of Burgan Bank.

Several banks have sought to compensate for the loss of business at home by looking overseas. Gulf Bank has a Singapore branch and a representative office in New York. National Bank of Kuwait has just upgraded its Singapore office to branch status, and has received official approval for a New York branch. It also has a licensed deposit status in London.

CBK has also just received a New York licence, and is studying a London presence for the future. Ahli Bank of Kuwait, on the other hand, has gone international through the syndicated loan market, and is now an important actor on that scene.

The banks have responded in a Government request for advice on reactivating the economy by proposing a special construction budget financed from new sources - including the issuing of public bonds

directly or through semi-Government bodies like the National Housing Authority. This would be an important new source of business, though it is not yet clear how the Government has reacted to this somewhat self-serving idea.

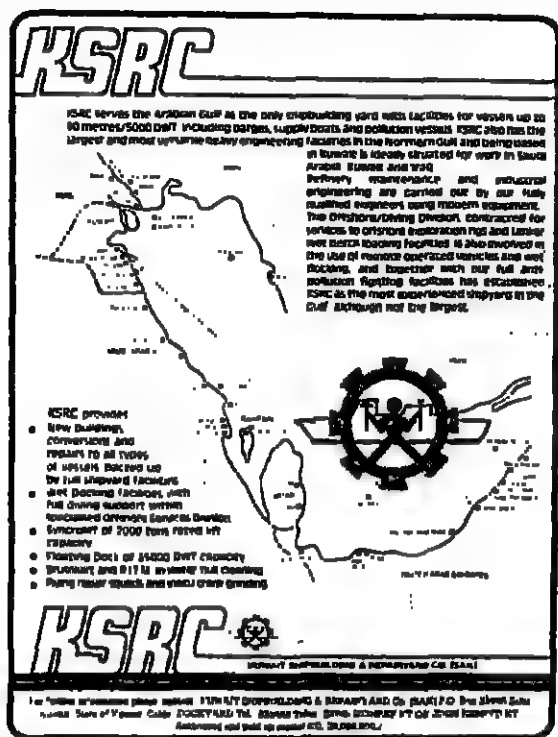
Kuwait's abundant wealth for the past 30 years makes the idea of Government borrowing rather unfamiliar, and it seems unlikely to be accepted very quickly.

Despite their travails, all the banks showed profit increases in 1983. But these figures should be treated with caution, as should virtually all the figures in Kuwaiti banks' accounts. This is because the banking law allows banks to get away with the minimum of disclosure, and to maintain inner reserves. These are used to build up a nest-egg in good years from which funds are drawn to cosmetically improve results when times are bad.

The central bank is now negotiating better disclosure, which should make for some interesting reading if applied to last year's accounts. The managements of one or two banks in particular may have to answer some sharp questioning from shareholders if their true position is allowed to emerge.

Shakib Otaqui

Middle East Economic Digest



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THE ARTS

Cinema

Fellini's tribute to the silent era

And the Ship Sails On
(PG)
Academy I

Life is a Bed of Roses
(PG)
Chelsea Cinema

The Ballad of Narayama
(18)
Premiere, Shaftesbury Avenue

Whatever the subsequent going-on, the opening of Federico Fellini's *And the Ship Sails On* (*E la nave va*) is in itself worth the price of admission. A triumph of *mise-en-scène*, it is also a loving tribute to the silent cinema. The image is sepia and white and the only sound is a melodious if aimless pit piano. The scene is documentary: the embarkation of a great liner from Naples in 1914. Unusually Fellini has recreated the way that the camera caught the carriages and the costumes and a different physiognomy, but the self-conscious preening before the camera and the cheeky or curious bystanders who peer into the lens and then dart back like startled birds.

Hardly perceptible at first, colour suffuses the image, the people on the screen acquire voices and the voyage begins. The ship is carrying the ashes of the world's greatest soprano to be scattered off her island birthplace. In attendance is an august assembly of singers, socialites, impresarios, sometime lovers of the defunct diva, an

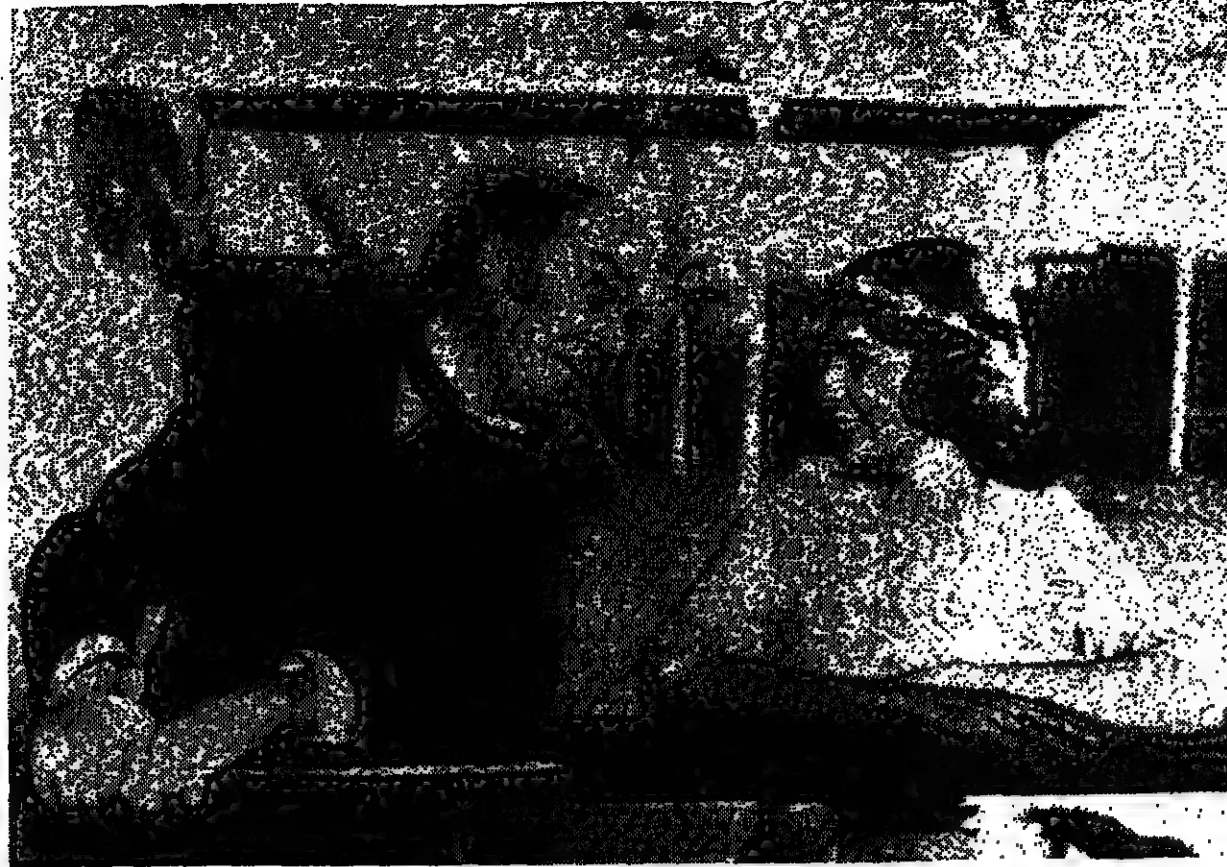
elephantine, baby-faced grand duke with his plotting entourage and a love-sick rhinoceros with diarrhoea. As Chorus there is a seedy, tipsy, gossipy old journalist (Freddie Jones).

The ship steams serenely on until the events of 1914 intrude upon this musical pilgrimage. The captain picks up a boat-load of Serbian refugees, who disturb the calm of the first-class salons and dining rooms. In pursuit of them comes an Austro-Hungarian battleship. The grand duke puts on his spiked helmet and shows his hand. The ship becomes an incident. As it goes down, the elite of the musical world stand on deck, stoically performing their requiem for the lost idol.

The allegorical significance is apparent and soon exhausted; and we are left with a grandiose Fellinian *divertissement* that shows him at less than his best. There are spectacular images, and the inimitable, inevitable set-pieces - most memorably a contest in volume by the operatic stars, staged in the ship's engine room, with an accompaniment of pistons and an appreciative audience of sweating stokers. Between the set-pieces, though, the periods of waiting are often tedious.

The silent-film motif persists: the lost diva (Janet Suzman) is intermittently glimpsed, reaching to her admirers out of the lost past of the movie screen. Fellini always favours types with the exaggerated features that suited silent pictures, and for this film he has discovered the rich eccentricities of English character players: Barbara Jefford with basilisk eyes that could wither a Theda Bara, Peter Celler as a sneering, sadistic English peer, Freddie Jones's Crumley, a comedy style quite comfortably in Fellini's theatrical universe.

E la nave va was first shown at



English eccentricity: Freddie Jones with Sarah Jane Varley in *And the Ship Sails On*

Venice, and the overall disappointment is softened at second viewing. This is not, alas, the case with Alain Resnais's *Life is a Bed of Roses* (*La vie est un roman*), which was first seen at Cannes last year. Resnais has a similar point to make, about the collapse of hope in culture that resulted from the First World War. His film opens with the inauguration, in 1914, of a project for an Utopian city in the Ardennes Forest. After the war the city of Count Forbek (Ruggero Raimondi in a non-singing role) remains uncompleted, his great plan diminished to a decadent house party where the guests induce happy oblivion with oriental narcotics. The story of Forbek's castle is intertwined (or muddled) with two other stories: seventy years on, the castle is the centre for a progressive

school and an absurd out-of-term congress on "Education of the Imagination". Meanwhile a group of children people the wood with their own imaginary world of fairy-tale royalty, damsels and dragons. From time to time any one of the stories may stop for song (with music by Philippe-Geard). The script is by Jean Gruault, with whom Resnais worked, with greater success, in *Mon Oncle d'Amérique*. The intention is clear enough: an essay on various aspects of liberty and restraint, particularly in the play of the imagination. (The title of the purpose is itself comic-ironic.) The purpose though is lost in unfettered pretension, visual and verbal, which in the main the actors (Vittorio Gassman, Geraldine Chaplin, Fanny Ardant) do little to offset.

The Ballad of Narayama, last year's Cannes Grand Prix winner, is the second film adaptation of Shichiro Fukazawa's allegorical tale about a peasant community who traditionally abandon their aged to die in the mountains. Keisaku Kinoshita's 1958 version adopted a stylized, Kabuki-influenced approach: Shohhei Imamura applies a more realistic treatment to the historical style. The multifarious village dramas of the earlier parts of the film are confusing, difficult and somewhat brutal for Western spectators (perhaps for Japanese, too), but the climactic scenes of the aged heroine's commitment to the mountains, and Imamura's images of raw nature, have their own thrills.

David Robinson

Mahler discovery arrives in London

The discovery of a previously unknown manuscript of Mahler's First Symphony is likely to cause as much interest in musical circles as its sale on May 10. Even more than most of his works, this symphony cost Mahler a great deal of effort in getting it right. Originally it was in five movements, and described not as a symphony but as a symphonic poem: two manuscripts of this version have come down to us, one now at Yale and the other in the New York Public Library, the latter of them dated by the Mahler scholar Donald Mitchell to 1893-96. But then there was silence in the sources until the first edition of 1899, by which time the piece was definitively a symphony in four movements (the abandoned andante, subtitled "Blumine", was revived by Britten and Ormandy in the 1960s).

The new manuscript fills the gap. On the title page, Mahler boldly writes "Symphony No. 1", for by this stage in the work's genesis he had already finished his Second Symphony and probably most of his Third as well. Presumably this manuscript was intended as a fair copy for publication, most of it being very neatly and beautifully written out by one F. Weidig. But then, when Mahler came to correct Weidig's work, he found himself led into wholesale revisions affecting virtually every page of the score, and sometimes necessitating the replacement of Weidig's script by new pages entirely in his own hand. A substantial part of the first movement received this treatment, and there are three autograph pages stuck over the copyist's manuscript in the finale, where Mahler's changes became increasingly throughgoing.

The outcome of all this rethinking is very close to the text printed by Weinberger in 1899, though it is unthinkable that Mahler's publishers should have been dealing with a copy that bears such liberal and confusing evidence of second, third and fourth thoughts: there must have been another, fairer copy in between. Here, nevertheless, is where the symphony takes its final form. Mahler makes no changes to the structure: "Blumine" has already gone, and not a bar is otherwise added or subtracted. However, the manuscript is loaded with the clarifications and qualifications of a musician who, during the crucial years of the mid-1890s that separate this from the next earliest manuscript, gained new insights into his creative self.

Perhaps a performance of the symphony in 1896 also gave him new insights into this particular work. He adds to his orchestra three more horns, a cor anglais and a second timpanist to the ranks. He also alters the orchestral sonority almost throughout in other ways, sometimes adding weight, sometimes thinning the texture. Then there are the completely new ideas, like a couple of bars for solo viola in the finale. And always the effect is to make the symphony more personal, more Mahlerian.

Mahler scholars will obviously be itching to set about the massive task of deciphering and analyzing all the information about the composer's creative mind contained in a manuscript whose existence was not hitherto suspected. Apparently it is the property of a foreign family who were not aware of its value or importance. Sotheby's are expecting a price of \$120-150,000.

Paul Griffiths

Theatre

Measure for Measure

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Slimline BL drives back into the black

There are, thank goodness, no great horrors or surprises in the 1983 results which BL produced yesterday. The company achieved its target of breaking even at the trading level last year. In fact it produced a small operating profit of £4.1m, compared with the 1982 loss of £125.8m, thanks largely to the success of the Metro and the Maestro in this country and the triumphant march of Jaguar through the car salerooms of the United States. It is the first year that BL has traded in the black since 1978, and it looks certain at last that it will not now have to come back to the Government for any more money in the foreseeable future. This is entirely welcome.

There is still plenty of red ink below the trading line in the accounts. The pretax loss after net interest costs of £71m emerges as £67.1m, and the net loss is £151m, roughly half the 1982 figure of £292m. This includes a provision of £73m for rationalization costs at the troubled Land Rover/Leyland division, whose losses last year shot up from £42m to £66m, largely as a result of well-chronicled problems in the trucks division.

BL has already announced 1,000 job losses at Leyland Trucks this year, and the Cabinet is still agonising over the future of the Bathgate truck and engine plant in Scotland, which BL's latest corporate plan recommended closing. About £40m has been prudently included in the £73m extraordinary item to cover the likely redundancy and closure costs: how much will be needed will depend on whether Mr George Younger the Scottish Secretary, succeeds in his efforts to save the Bathgate operation.

For the first time BL has provided a breakdown of the performance of the different components in its cars division, showing that Jaguar and Unipart, the two most immediate candidates on the privatization list, are both performing well. Jaguar exceptionally so. Its operating profit rose from £15m to £55m, while Unipart, the components division, increased profits from £14m to £17m. Austin-Rover, thanks to the Metro and the Maestro, made an operating profit of £2m, against its £101m loss in 1982.

But Land-Rover, once a privatization candidate, made a loss after a sharp cut in exports.

Jaguar's performance is at the top end of most analysts' estimates, and means that the flotation - now tipped for July - could easily raise the best part of £300m. Though it was helped by the weaker pound, Jaguar's sales performance last year was a tribute to the revival that has been wrought in its performance by Mr John Egan, its chairman.

Sales were up by 7,000 to 29,100 cars, just over half of them in the United States. Productivity has also improved sharply. Much still depends on the new XJ40 car which will be launched around the end of this year, but the Government will clearly not want to hang about when it comes to bringing Jaguar to market. There has been endless internal wrangling in Whitehall over how the company should be privatized. But it now looks as if 100 per cent of the shares will go on sale, BL having lost its fight to keep a minority stake. A large chunk of shares will be reserved for management and workers.

A long, hot summer of new issues

The Bank of England's cash queue is now so full of new issues that issuing houses are accepting dates for raising new capital or floatations in August, normally a month when City men do not expect to do too much hard work. It looks as if every month until the end of September is fully occupied with new issue activity. Perhaps as much as £2 billion or equal to two full-blooded taps, will be raised. June and July could be particularly heavy months, with roughly 3 or 4 offers for sale each week.

Well known names like Reuters, the Daily Mirror, Enterprise Oil, and possibly even Jaguar. Some suggest that the flood of new issues is now so heavy that the Government Broker is operating not one, but three booking-lists: one for rights issues, one for floatations, and one for fixed interest issues. Sadly, the corporate fixed interest market so carefully

nursed back to life by the Government, appears to be the easiest list on which to book an issue date. Companies are so concerned about the future level of interest rates that they are turning down the chance of floating fixed coupon debt. To date, only property companies and insurance trusts have registered much interest in the hedging market.

The flotation of British Telecom, still officially scheduled for the autumn, is partly to blame for the lull. It is clear that institutional liquidity will fall to a very low level, after the jumbo Telecom issue is completed, so companies are rushing to get in first. BT is now the vogue term. In corporate finance parlance, BT now stands for Before Telecom.

A general fear that equities may be peaking out at about 900 on the FT-30 Share Index has also encouraged companies to bring forward any new issue plans. This is beginning to affect sentiment in the gilt-edged market, as dealers, who normally pay little, if any attention, to equities, realize that the Government may now be over-exposed on the privatization programme, insofar as its fortunes are closely tied to a buoyant equity market. Moreover, the flood of new issues may impede the Government Broker's normal funding programme, at a time when heavy bank lending prompts the need for "over funding".

A dual irony lies behind the tight new issue queue. On the one hand, corporate liquidity is now so high - it rose by £6.6 billion last year - that companies actually repaid debt in sector terms during the final quarter last year, according to the latest CSO figures. Rights issues will tend therefore to be made by aggressive companies beefing up their balance sheets before hitting the takeover trail.

On the other hand, some brokers have got it into their heads that the British Telecom flotation might be postponed until January, if only to avoid a clash between the rumoured marketing of the company in America and the impending US Presidential election. We shall see.

Scargill's hordes at the gate

The stock market recovered some of its equanimity yesterday after its bout of nerves this week over the prospect of an all-out miners' strike. But it may be counting its Easter chicks too soon.

The consequences of a strike on the economy could be pretty dire, according to calculations by Mr Gavin Davies of Simon & Coates, who has looked back at the effects of the two previous strikes and overtime bans in 1971-72 and 1973-74.

In one important respect industry is in a much better position than it was then. Coal stocks are much higher and the warm weather is just beginning. Both the two earlier strikes began in the depths of winter.

So coal stocks could last until the autumn, provided other unions do not succeed in preventing them being moved to power stations and factories.

But, Mr Davies says, a halt to coal production would chip 4 per cent off total industrial output, and the knock-on effects of a long strike on the iron and steel industry would be enough to wipe out the whole of the expected 3 per cent growth in industrial output this year. If other industries are forced to cut back on energy use, as in the three-day week of early 1974, national income could be cut by as much as 2.5 per cent, though production should rebound when the strike ends.

This is serious enough. But how the markets react depends very much on psychology. As Mr Davies says, any sign that the miners might win could raise fears of a renewed upsurge in inflation if other workers see that militancy pays.

In 1971-72 market reaction was muted. In 1973-74, against the background of a world-wide energy crisis, the impending collapse of pay policy and the political disintegration of the Heath Government, the markets felt very sick indeed.

Mr Davies is right to point out that none of these factors is replicated this time. But with the 1973-74 episode still enshrined in folk memory as the miners' strike, Mr Scargill may yet set the stock market tumbling.

Two leading funds to ignore flotation

Reuters boycott grows

By Philip Robinson

Support for the boycott of the stock market flotation of Reuters is increasing among investment managers responsible for billion-pound pension funds.

The National Association of Pension Funds and the British Insurance Association have urged members to avoid both the underwriting and buying of Reuters shares once they have a quote. They say that the voting structure puts the shares offered to the public at a disadvantage to those being kept by the newspaper owners of the news agency and business information service.

Despite suggestions that Reuters merchant bank advisers have been given an informal underwriting commitment by some smaller pension funds and insurance companies, two top management groups have made up their minds to ignore the issue. The issue is regarded

with such importance that investment managers handling the portfolios of large numbers of individual pension funds, normally on a discretionary basis, are seeking advice from the individual funds.

Uncommitted investment managers are waiting to see the terms of the issue before deciding their stance. But such resistance means that the issue, on May 22, is likely to be much smaller than the £325m originally planned and will be by tender in the British market and will use the "red herring" preliminary prospectus method in America.

In America the price of an issue is determined by the response obtained from the red herring method. Using this method in the US and the tender route in Britain, means that prices each side of the Atlantic can be adjusted to match. A decision on whether

Reuters might seek a US over-the-counter quotation is likely to be made in a fortnight.

Any smaller initial offering of shares is likely to mean that a second tranche of shares would be offered shortly after the flotation.

However, Reuters might run into trouble on Wall Street. There too, there is no love for restrictive voting structures.

The Dow Jones company, publishers of *The Wall Street Journal* is prepared to give up its quote on the New York Stock Exchange in order to implement a scheme to make its bid-proof by special shares carrying 10 times the voting power of existing shares.

Yesterday, a shareholders meeting approved the share structure, reinforcing the dominant position of the heirs of Clarence N. Barron, who already controls 56 per cent of the stock.

NatWest agrees price for takeover of jobbers

Top fund manager condemns rush to revolutionize City

By William Kay
City Editor

As National Westminster Bank was publishing plans for the takeover of the Biggood Bidco publishing firm yesterday, one of the City's leading fund managers launched a bitter attack on the rush to revolutionize the Stock Exchange.

Mr David Hopkinson, deputy chairman and managing director of the M&G unit trust group, said: "In view of the formation of so many financial conglomerates in the City at the present time, it is important to emphasize that it is M&G's intention to remain independent."

"On the changes taking place in the Stock Exchange, we have said before that we regret the passing of single capacity."

The Bank of England and the Stock Exchange had not given sufficient thought, he said, to the protection of the small investor and the operation of a compensation fund.



David Hopkinson: fears passing of 'old school'

Conflicts of interest when the distinction between agent and principal erodes.

The problem of preserving an adequate market in the 9,000 securities below the 1,000 top stocks such as Glaxo, BAT and I.M.P.S. which everyone wants to deal in.

Increased opportunities for corruption resulting from regulated commissions and a dual capacity which may become

apparent when those brought up in "the old school" are succeeded by a new generation.

The next recession, when turnover is low, people go to the wall and the small investor gets hurt.

National Westminster, meanwhile, was pressing on with plans to develop an international securities business. Bringing the skills of primary capital raising, secondary market-making and distribution of securities direct to investors.

It is valuing Biggood Bidco at £18.6m in a complex scheme of arrangement which will be closely studied by other clearing banks contemplating links with Stock Exchange firms. Barclays has yet to say precisely how it will achieve its aim of investing in Wedd Durlacher, the jobbers, and stockbrokers de Zoete and Bevan.

The Biggood valuation compares with stock market capitalizations of £122m for the rival jobbers Akroyd and Smithers, and £12.9m for Smith Bros.

Mr Charles Villiers, chief

executive of County Bank, National Westminster's merchant banking arm, said last night: "We are taking it as a price/earnings ratio of 10 for the current year, assuming a 35 per cent tax charge."

For the year to May 6, 1983, Biggood Bidco made a pretax profit of £2.46m on turnover of £2.1 billion.

While National Westminster is to acquire an initial 29.9 per cent of Biggood Bidco, the maximum presently permitted under Stock Exchange rules, two new companies are being created.

BB Investments will hold the extra shares in Biggood now owned by City institutions, as a "parking place" until the rules let National Westminster buy them. Biggood Investments will hold certain directors' and employees' shares in the jobbing firm as a form of five-year incentive scheme.

It is expected that the scheme of arrangement should be through the High Court on May 11 and completed by June 14.

ICI chief promises more profit growth

By Jonathan Clark

Mr John Harvey-Jones, chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, yesterday promised further profit growth on the back of the improving volume sales, maintained prices and favourable exchange rates.

He told the annual meeting: "As I said when we visited the United States in November of last year, we are already moving forward, we have our right foot on the accelerator and the lights are at green - so watch this space."

Mr Harvey-Jones, sporting a bright red handkerchief to make up for a less flamboyant than usual tie, also said that the company's gearing was at its lowest level for 10 years.

Record results in the US were not due simply to the strengthening economy there, but to ICI's specialist products.

ICI's managers' union, which had sent a special delegation to the meeting was also promised that the company's traditional consultative employee relations would be respected.

ICI's percentage improvement in profits has been greater than its main competitors, but Mr Harvey-Jones pointed out that the return on assets was still unsatisfactory. And the payout to shareholders was below the level achieved in 1979, in real terms.

Future policy will be to reduce ICI's dependence on commodity businesses to reduce its vulnerability to business cycles. The shares were down 10p at 618p.

Francis fights off new offer

A final offer of £14.4m - £1m higher - by Mr David Abell's Suter refrigeration and hair-dressing equipment company has been turned down by Francis Industries.

Suter's merchant bank, Robert Fleming, swooped yesterday to buy a million shares, taking the total stake to almost 34 per cent. The Takeover Panel has already ruled that Fleming's Britannia Syndicate, which bought the shares, was acting in concert with Suter.

The new offer from Suter is worth 128p on the basis of one Suter share plus 120p in cash for every two in Francis. There is also a new cash offer worth 125p per share.

Suter says it is now acquiring the shares ex-dividend, allowing accepting Francis shareholders to keep the recommended 2p final dividend for 1983.

Francis Industries shares closed up at 127p. Suter's shares were unchanged at 128p.

Surprise twin issue by Bank of Scotland

By Wayne Lintott

The Bank of Scotland surprised the City yesterday with the simultaneous announcement of a bonus scrip issue and a rights issue along with its yearly profit figures.

The bank is proposing a one-for-one bonus share issue plus a one-for-two rights issue, equivalent to one-for-four at 520p a share if the scrip issue were subtracted. That is a substantial discount on the current share price of 647p, down 5p on the announcement.

The bank announced pretax profits of £59.3m for the year to February 28, against £49.6m the year earlier, with a final dividend of 16.5p to make 28p for the year (24p).

The scrip issue is worth some £22m while the rights issue raises a net £41.5m. After both issues have been concluded a total of £49.2m of new stock will be allocated.

The bank's two largest individual shareholders, Barclays Bank with 34 per cent and the Kuwait Investment Office with 9.5 per cent, will subscribe for the new issues.

Mr Bruce Pattullo, the

Sharp rise in lending by BIS

By Frances Williams
Economics Correspondent

International bank lending picked up sharply towards the end of last year after more than a year of depressed activity, according to the Bank for International Settlements in its quarterly report issued last night.

Nearly half the \$40 billion (£28.1 billion) of new lending in the fourth quarter of 1983 went to American banks to meet growing credit demand in the United States. But more cash also went to developing countries and to Eastern Europe, which have suffered net outflows of funds since mid-1982.

Extra lending to non-oil Third World countries rose from \$900m in the third quarter to \$4.7 billion in the fourth quarter, though more than half of this went to Latin American nations, including Mexico and Brazil, under IMF-backed rescue programmes.

The BIS, the central bankers' bank, said, however, that lending by Western banks in 1983 as a whole rose by only 8.3 per cent, the smallest increase since records began.

Tebbit heads off criticism on register default

By Anthony Bevas, Political Correspondent

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has pre-empted severe criticism from the National Office of the public protection provided by company registers.

Sir Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General, said in a report to Parliament yesterday that with 40 per cent of companies failing to deliver annual returns and accounts, the registers were "in danger of falling into disrepute".

But in a remarkably swift

British Gas plans £100m sea search

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

British Gas is launching a £100m programme to search for gas in the sea round Britain, with eight drilling rigs exploring in areas ranging from the English Channel to the deep water west of Shetland.

A combination of exploration, development and appraisal wells will be drilled by British Gas in northern Shetland, in western Shetland, off the Humber coast, the coast of East Anglia and the coast of Dorset.

The corporation is also going ahead with building two more huge caverns in the rock salt 6,000 feet below Horsa in the Humber estuary.

Five 1,000 million cubic feet caverns have been cut out by dissolving the rock salt with seawater. Three of the caverns are operational and are used to store gas from North Sea fields during the summer for use during winter peak periods of demand.

N.V. Koninklijke Nederlandsche Petroleum Maatschappij
(Royal Dutch) Established at The Hague, The Netherlands

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

to be held on Thursday 17th May, 1984, at 10.30 a.m. in the "Nederlands Congresgebouw", 10 Churchillplein, The Hague, The Netherlands.

AGENDA:

1. Annual Report for 1983.
2. Finalization of the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account together with the Notes thereto for 1983 and declaration of the final dividend for 1983.

The above-mentioned documents are available for inspection and may be obtained free of charge at the Company's office, 30 Canal van Bylandtplein, The Hague, and at the head offices of the banks mentioned below.

REGISTRATION:

A. Holders of share certificates to bearer may attend the meeting if their share certificates, or evidence that their certificates are held in open custody by De Nederlandsche Bank N.V., are deposited against receipt not later than 11th May, 1984, at one of the banks mentioned below.

In the Netherlands: Algemene Bank Nederland N.V., Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank N.V., Bank van der Hoop Offertes N.V., Bank Mees & Hope N.V., Kna-Associaat N.V., Pearson, Holding & Pearson N.V.

In Austria: Creditanstalt-Bankverein, Österreichische Länderbank AG, Schöller & Co., all in Vienna.

In Belgium: Société Générale de Banque S.A., Crédit Lyonnais, Kredietbank N.V., all in Brussels.

In the Federal Republic of Germany: Deutsche Bank AG, Frankfurt/Main, Düsseldorf, Hamburg or Munich; Dresdner Bank AG, Frankfurt/Main, Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Munich or Saarbrücken; Deutsche Bank Berlin AG, Berlin; Bank für Handel und Industrie AG, Berlin; Deutsche Bank Saar AG, Saarbrücken.

In France: Lazard Frères & Cie, Paris.

In Luxembourg: Banque Internationale à Luxembourg S.A., Luxembourg.

In Switzerland: Schweizerische Kreditanstalt, Schweizerische Bankgesellschaft, Bank Leu AG, all in Zürich; Schweizerische Bankverein, Basel; Pictet & Cie, Genève.

In the United Kingdom: N.M. Rothschild & Sons Limited, London.

In the United States of America: The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., New York.

B. Holders of registered shares may attend the meeting if they make their intention to do so known to the Company in writing at the place and by the time indicated below:

- with respect to shares of The Hague Registry at the Company's office at The Hague, not later than 10th May, 1984;
- with respect to shares of Amsterdam Registry at the office of Algemene Bank Nederland N.V., C.K.E., P.O. Box 2230, Breda, The Netherlands, not later than 10th May, 1984;
- with respect to shares of Vienna Registry at the office of Creditanstalt-Bankverein, Österreichische Länderbank AG, Schöller & Co., all in Vienna, not later than 10th May, 1984.

with respect to shares of New York Registry at the office of The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., New York, not later than 10th May, 1984.

C. Holders of certificates for "New York shares", which are depositary receipts issued pursuant to an agreement dated 10th September, 1982, under which The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.'s successor depositary, may attend the meeting if their certificates for "New York shares" are deposited against receipt not later than 11th May, 1984, at Algemene Bank Nederland N.V., C.K.E., P.O. Box 2230, Breda, The Netherlands, or The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., New York.

D. Usufructuaries and pledgees with voting rights: what is stated above under A. and B. regarding registration is correspondingly applicable to usufructuaries and pledgees of bearer shares or registered shares if they have voting rights.

POWERS OF ATTORNEY:

The persons mentioned above under A, B, C and D who wish to have themselves represented at the meeting by a proxy must not only comply with what is stated above under A, B, C and D respectively, but must also deposit a written power of attorney not later than 11th May, 1984, at the Company's office, 30 Canal van Bylandtplein, The Hague, or at the above-mentioned banks.

If desired, forms which are obtainable free of charge at the Company's office and the banks may be used for this purpose.

The Hague, 19th April, 1984
The Supervisory Board

Handshake record

Mr Donald Anderson, who left United Newspapers as joint managing director last year after a boardroom row, collected a £139,000 golden handshake. It is the largest compensation ever paid by the company.

Now a director of Reed International's Business Press International, Mr Anderson, aged 54, said: "The payment includes a lot of pension and is not just money in my back pocket."

THE PRINTING & COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION has increased pretax profits to £22.077m for the year to December, 1983, up from £12.414m in 1982. Turnover also increased from £192.5m to £230.8m. A dividend of 6p has been proposed the first since 1979.

● **RMC GROUP**, the ready-mixed concrete and aggregates company, yesterday announced better than expected results for last year. Pre-tax profits were up from £44.8m to £71.6m and the dividend is being raised from 10.2p to 12p with a 7.9p final.

Temps, page 20

COMPANY NEWS

IN BRIEF

● **ALBERT FISHER:** Arrangements made for rights issue of ordinary shares to raise about £2.38m, after expenses. Terms one ordinary for every four ordinarys held and one ordinary for every £2.76 nominal of convertible preference shares, at 68p a share. Board expects to recommend a final dividend for the year to August 30 net of 1p net on the bigger capital. This would make a total of 1.5p - an increase of 50 per cent.

● **A. G. STANLEY HOLDINGS:** Results for 1983. Turnover £54.88m (£53.84m). Pretax profit £596,000 (£597,000). Total dividend 1.5p (1p).

● **NEW LONDON PROPERTIES:** Results for 1983. Turnover £4.4m (£3.76m). Pretax profit £2.44m (£2.58m). Dividend 18p (16.25p).

● **HORACE CORY:** Results for 1983. Turnover £3.49m (£3.23m). Pretax profit £304,000 (£268,000). Dividend 4.5p (same).

● **BOOSEY & HAWKES:** Results for 1983. Turnover £24.18m (£21.21m). Pretax profit £736,000 (£549,000). Dividend 5p (2.3p).

● **STYLO:** Year to January 28, 1984. Turnover £48.81m (£46.48m). Pretax profit £1.91m (£1.9m). Dividend 3.5p (3.5p).

● **FOGARTY:** Results for 1983. Turnover £24.31m (£23.78m). Pretax profit £1.65m (loss of £12,000 last time). Dividend 4.02p (same). Board gives a warning it is doubtful whether a profit will be shown for first half of 1984.

● **R. SMALLSHAW (KNITWEAR):** Year to Dec 31, 1983, compared with previous 15 months. Turnover £7.46m (£8.78m). Pretax profit £308,000 (£193,000). Dividend 1.75p (2.25p).

● **MICROLEASE:** Dividend of 2p, as forecast, for year to Feb 28, 1984. Turnover £2.51m (£1.5m). Pretax profit £582,000 (£40,000). Company has a USM quotation.

● **AMEC:** Results for 1983 (including William Press). Turnover £715.3m (£263.5m). Pretax profit £26.1m (£16.5m). Dividend 10p (9p). Company has excellent forward work load.

● **HENARA:** Turnover £5.18m (£4.94m) for 1983. Pretax profit £1.65m (£673,000). Results exceed forecast. Dividend 0.7p.

● **SUN LIFE ASSURANCE:** Total dividend for 1983, 16.48p - a rise of 23 per cent over 1982. Proprietors' profit for year, after tax, £9.65m (£7.73m). Total group funds again increased by over £500m in 1983, reaching £2.736m.

● **MCKECHNIE BROTHERS:** Half-year to Jan 31, 1984. Turnover £97.17m (£76.12m). Pretax profit £6.92m (£5.36). Interim payment 3p (same). Board expects similar progress in second half.

● **TILBURY GROUP:** Results for 1983. Turnover £53.58m (£44.51m). Pretax profit £2.92m (£2.5m). Dividend 4.4p (4p, adjusted).

● **ARCOLECTRIC (HOLDINGS):** Results for 1983. Dividend 0.4p (0.35p). Sales £4.97m (£4.27m). Pretax profit £137,000 (£101,000).

● **OWEN OWEN:** Year to Jan 28, 1984. Turnover £84.95m (£85.51m) for previous year, excluding Canada and £119.32m including Canada. Pretax profit £1.18m (£477,000) profit, excluding Canada. In previous year and loss of £1.64m (including Canada). Dividend 3.3p (3p).

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Blue chip interest helps shares rally

By Michael Clark

Investors managed to keep a stiff upper-lip in the face of overwhelming odds yesterday as share prices continued their recent rally. The FT-100 index closed at its high for the day up 8.8 at 888.6 with interest again centred on leading blue chips and takeover situations.

This was in spite of the looming Easter bank holiday, the miner's delegate ballot and rising interest rates at home and abroad. The new FT-SE 100 closed 6.0 up at 1116.2, but once again turnover was limited to a trickle with investors firmly entrenched on the sidelines.

Among leaders Distillers, the world's biggest exporter of scotch whisky, advanced 9p to 284p as speculative buyers again controlled the upper hand. This was in spite of denials from the South African drinks and tobacco group Rembrandt, that it had bought a large stake in the company. The rumours have been about

Broker Phillips & Drew is expected to publish later today a "buy" circular on Securicard Group, security and industrial cleaning business. Phillips & Drew expects profits in the current year to rise from £530,000 to more than £800,000 followed by £1.03m next year. Phillips & Drew brought the share to market last year at 133p, but even at yesterday's price of 140p, up 3p, they are thought to be undervalued.

sometime and resurfaced last week as buyers pushed the price steadily higher.

Rowntree Mackintosh also enjoyed renewed support climbing 6p to 290p, before closing a net 2p up on the day at 286p. A spokesman for Rowntree said: "There has been no change in the situation. The board are not aware of any reason for the activity in the shares. There is no evidence here of any approach being made".

Among Rowntree's biggest shareholders are The Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust with 5.8 per cent of the shares and The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust another 4.7 per cent. The Swiss foods group Jacobs Suchard said it has sold a minority of its business in Brazil to Industrials de Chocolate Lacté in return for a stake in Lactes. This seems to rule

Suchard out of the running for a bid for Rowntree.

Gills turned round sharply yesterday afternoon, on the back of a weakening US bond market. Shorts finished 1/2 off, after starting the day ahead by 1/2, while longs shed 1/2, as jobbers sold the June gilt contract heavily in futures, and marked the cash market down accordingly.

The US long bond, 12 per cent 2013, opened 1/4 lower at 94 1/2, and by mid-morning was down 3/4 point. The March rise of 0.5 per cent in US personal income was partly to blame for the sell-off, since the market was hoping for a smaller figure, but the firmness of Fed funds at over 10 1/2 per cent also upset US dealers.

Aspinall Holdings, the USM quoted casino is currently negotiating with the government of the Northern Territory of Australia for Aspinall to open two new casinos in Alice Springs and Darwin. The deal will be a joint operation with Pratt Hotels of the US, which operate the sands Casino at Atlantic City and a chain of hotels in both the US and Mexico under the Holiday Inn flag.

As part of the agreement the Northern Territories Public Corporation and Henry & Walker will purchase the two casinos from the Federal Hotels Group on the basis of developing larger hotel and tourist complex's Aspinall failed to react to the news closing unchanged at 121p.

Banks had another mixed day with Midland closing 8p higher at 387p despite last week's news of increased losses from its US subsidiary Crocker. Barclays closed unchanged at 479p, while Lloyds advanced 5p to 624p and National Westminster lost 8p to 644p. Bank of Scotland lost only 3p to 647p on its proposed £41m rights issue.

The retail sector showed few signs of recovering from the disappointing retail figures earlier this week. Comet hardened 3p to 225p after recent profit taking on the proposed bid from Woolworth, unchanged at 513p. In-oils BP hit the £5 barrier with a rise of 5p after continuing its recent strong run, which many dealers thought had been long overdue. Other gains were seen in Britoil 4p to 270p, Burnmah 1p

to 186p, Cyle Petroleum 3p to 128p, Premier 2 1/2p to 53p and Charterhouse Petroleum 1p to 158p. Shell was unchanged at 643p.

Elsewhere, Research Technology rose 10p to 184 reflecting Tuesday's article in *The Times* and one investor has sold off a large chunk of stock to the institutions.

Selincourt, the textiles group, held steady at 16 1/4p following the announcement from the Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society that it has increased its holding to 3.28 per cent of the total.

Meanwhile, Investors in Industry has reduced its stake in Oxford Instruments after selling 1.3 million shares last week. This reduces its stake to 4.45 million of the issued equity. But Investors in industry says it has no further intention of selling any more shares in Oxford in the foreseeable future. Shares of

Shares of Bowater surged 13p to a new high of 336p yesterday giving early indication that the recent rights issue to raise £41m had been well received. The million "rump" of the 21 million shares issued, is expected to be placed later today without too much trouble and should see the shares make further headway.

Oxford closed unchanged at 308p.

The Prudential Corporation has also been selling shares in Woodhouse & Risson and no longer holds a notifiable interest. Woodhouse was moved at 16 1/2p. Prudential has also reduced its holding in British Steam Specialities to 1.02 million shares, or 7.53 per cent.

Among this week's newcomers Pantherella, the high quality sock manufacturer, where Sir Hugh Fraser owns a large stake, advanced another 2p to 104p compared with the placing price of 80p. That is a premium of 24p. The Body Shop held steady at 173p against a placing price of 95p, while Ramco Oil Services, the corrosion experts for the oil industry, added a further 6p.

Waterford Glass hardened a further 4p to 44 1/2p following Tuesday's news of an approach which could lead to a bid

CHAIRMAN'S VIEWS

Lord Pennock, chairman of BICC, says in his annual statement - that the group's strong financial position will enable it this year to develop its businesses serving the electronics industry and to consolidate its position in fibre optics. Modernization of the cable plants will continue to match increasing worldwide competition.

Overall, the improvement experienced in the latter part of last year is expected to continue into 1984 but the going will not be easy, he adds.

Mr Arnold Lorbeer, who is to step down as chairman of Ultramar at the end of this year, says in his farewell statement to shareholders: "We expect 1984 to show increased profit and be a record year. The largest proportion of our capital outlays for the next few years will be for finding, developing and acquiring new oil and gas reserves."

Mr Bruce Tanner, chairman of Horizon Travel, the tour operator, says in the annual report that bookings for this summer are again at record levels, and growth in market share has been secured.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

American buyers brought a little life into European foreign exchange markets at the end of what had been a quiet day.

Backing high interest rates and the prospect that they will move higher again, they bought dollar, pushing pounds, Deutschmark and other Europeans lower.

Dealers this side of the Atlantic were reluctant to argue with the Easter holiday about to shut European exchanges while leaving America dealing. So, although some Europeans feel the dollar is longer term headed downward, the weekend, plus the cost of running short dollar positions, made the Americans the stronger influence.

MONEY MARKETS

There was again little movement in the period rates. With the meeting of miners' leaders and the Easter holiday weekend rapidly approaching, business dropped to a low level.

One or two buyers showed an interest in short-date paper early on, but longer-dated certificates tended to be sold. Overnight money traded at about 8 1/2 to 8 3/4 per cent for much of the day, though late dealings saw the rate touch 10 to 9 per cent, before easing to about 9 to 8 1/2 per cent.

Local authorities kept a low profile.

TEMPUS

BPCC's long hard road to era of genuine growth

Under Mr Robert Maxwell's tenacious leadership The British Printing & Communications Corporation has carried out the Survival Plan set up in 1981 and emerged a stronger yet leaner enterprise. The familiar tale of a period of rationalization ending and a new era of genuine growth about to begin slips easily off the lips at BPCC but the road has been long and hard.

Although pretax profits have increased by 78 per cent the damage below the line gives an indication to the savage battle which has been fought by BPCC to make these figures possible. Redundancy costs, losses and extra costs of producing the *Radio Times* as a result of the dispute at the Park Royal plant amounted to £10.5m.

Provisions for continuing rationalization and closure costs are another £3m, and BPCC also had to pay £230,000 for its failed bid for John Waddington. The final charge for extraordinary items of £1.1m is only mitigated by the £2.8m group relief payment from Pergamon and this will not recur in the future. There was also £23m above the line redundancy costs as a result of the Odams - Sun Printing merger.

BPCC has kept its promise to restore dividend payments and these could only be paid as a result of a surplus arising from an asset revaluation. The reserves brought forward at the start of the year of £16.1m included accumulated losses brought forward to £342,000.

The balance comprised unrealized surpluses on asset revaluations. For 1983 retained profit after dividend payments was £960,000, but there was a goodwill write-off of £1.2m and exchange losses of £478,000, which still leaves accumulated losses of more than £1m.

Under the 1980 Companies Act this would render part of the dividend payment illegal, but BPCC is saved by further revaluation surpluses during the year of £182, of which £6.4m has been transferred to revenue reserves, as a write-back of depreciation, which made enough money available to pay the dividend.

In 1984, BPCC will tackle the problem of arrears on the preference shares and will also restore the cut made in the

contributions to the group pension fund. Much of the rationalization is now out of the way and the benefits of the productivity improvements should be felt in a large way.

The merger of the Odams and Sun Printers operations could bring additional savings of £15m and the transfer of printing the *Radio Times* to East Kilbride should produce an additional £5m cost saving. The colour printing divisions are operating at only just above 50 per cent capacity and are ideally poised to take up any contracts won from Europe on a profitable basis.

The share price edged up from 189p to 197p at one stage yesterday, but slipped back to 194p. With pretax profits in 1984 of £40m a real possibility, BPCC stands on a prospective multiple of 6.7.

RMC

The stock market has come to expect buoyant profits from companies in the building materials sector, but yesterday's results from RMC Group surpassed even the most exotic of the analysts' forecasts and the company's share price leapt 27p to 468p.

An outstanding performance by the group's ready-mixed concrete and aggregates business in Britain and a recovery in the market in West Germany, helped RMC to achieve a 60 per cent increase in pretax profits to £71.6m. Better still, in the year to the year, when profits of £35m look possible.

In Britain, where the operating surplus leapt £13.2m to £47m last year, the group will find it difficult to achieve further significant growth from the ready-mixed business as last year's 3 per cent growth in the market is unlikely to be repeated.

Moreover, margins are bound to come under some pressure if the cement industry decides to raise its prices in 1984 for the first time in more than two years offsetting what little benefit the group has still to derive from its cost-cutting measures.

But there is plenty of potential in other areas of the group's British business - notably in the concrete blocks company, which saw a £2m turnaround from losses to profits last year, the Great

Mills do-it-yourself retailing chain and the Thorpe Park leisure complex.

In West Germany, where RMC has about 17 per cent of the ready-mixed market, the building cycle is still on the way up and barring big industrial upheavals is unlikely to top out until mid-1985. This should also benefit the main associate RWK, where a management shake-up and cost-cutting programme has already succeeded in returning the company to profits.

Along with the rest of the sector, RMC shares have had quite a run since the beginning of the year and at 478p the yield is 3.7 per cent and the prospective multiple about 10, the casual observer might be forgiven for thinking that the stock market has forgotten building materials are still as cyclical as ever, 1984 looks fine, but what about 1985?

Brook Street Bureau

When you are running the world's biggest employment agency you have to be strong on economic optimism. Indeed, for the last three years shareholders in Brook Street Bureau have had little else, but the agency does at last really seem to have turned the corner.

A proper dividend has been paid for the first time since 1981, even though it is a mere 1p against the total 2.135p paid three years ago. Mr Eric Hurst, who chairs the company jointly with Mrs Margery Hurst, says that orders for temporary staff are one-third up on the levels of a year ago. The company will not say how many people it places each year, so it is difficult to gauge the improvement.

However, it is clear that the recession has taught Brook Street some lessons. It is just about to start expanding its 100-strong branch network after the retrenchment of the last few years.

Meanwhile, the shares are at a new high of 72p, up 3p. This strength owes much to speculation about the Hurst's substantial stake as yesterday's much-improved results.

Almost half the shares are in the hands of the two Hursts. Names of companies interested in acquiring this stake are said to include Hestair.

"We are determined to build on the success of 1983"



John Harvey-Jones, the Chairman of ICI, speaking at the Annual General Meeting on 18th April, 1984 said, of the business situation:

"In the immediate future I think we are in line for further growth in profits. We are determined and able to perform, volume is improving, prices are holding and exchange rates remain competitive. When we announced our 1983 results at the end of February I was able to tell the financial press that we had got off to a very good start."

Reviewing the year's achievements the Chairman said - I cannot and will not disguise the pleasure I feel on behalf of the whole ICI team, in presenting our results to you - profits more than doubled, a very strong cash position, an increased dividend - all backed by some outstanding business achievements and determined effort to transform the organisation and cost structure of the Company. Our motto over the last four difficult years has been, and continues to be, 'self-help'. Certainly we have benefited from growth in demand and from more favourable exchange rates, but I believe that it is our positive attitude to change and our excellent products which are now taking us forward and are enabling us to seize opportunity as it arises.

However, as I look at our £619m profit - nearly 140% higher than 1982, and our dividend - 26% up on 1982, I am far from satisfied. While the 1983 profits signal real achievement, they also leave us with plenty of opportunity, and determination, to do better - and I am sure we can and will.

The recipe for further improvement

I believe we have the three essential ingredients - people, products and strategy - as well as the financial and territorial strength to make things happen.

I am sure all shareholders would wish to acknowledge the skill, determination, team effort and grinding hard work that has gone into these achievements. We have been in, and are still in, a very considerable process of business and organisation change - a transition to match anything that has happened before in ICI - all of it necessary and vital to the regeneration of the business.

Management of change is a key task at this time. One of ICI's most precious assets is a climate in which reasonable and necessary change can occur.

SOME FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS IN 1983

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| ● Total turnover | £8,256m - up 12% |
| ● Profit before tax | £619m - up 139% |
| ● Earnings per share | 65.3p - up 170% |
| ● Dividend per £1 Ordinary Stock | 24.0p - up 26% |

Strengthening the business for the future

There are three main thrusts to our current strategy. The first is to reduce our vulnerability to business cycles. We are already less reliant on commodity businesses - a very substantial proportion of our profit now comes from 'effect' products. The key to better performance in commodities is efficiency improvement which will lower the break-even point, and in turn enable these businesses to make profits at lower levels of demand and allow them to ride out the impact of future recessions.

Investing today for growth tomorrow

The second thrust is to support good businesses with selective acquisitions and expenditure. For example, the fertilizer business will be getting a new £30m nitric acid plant and we have acquired Albright & Wilson's fertilizer and agro-chemicals

business. We are installing more 'Mefinex' film capacity at Dumfries and in the USA. We are building a £20m plant to support growth in our specialist 'Arcton' fluorocarbons business.

The third thrust is new business development and innovation. We are merging our world-wide animal health interests with those of the Wellcome Foundation to form a new company - Coopers Animal Health Limited with substantial initial sales.

We have formed ICI Specialty Chemicals which has current sales of £150m which we are targeting to rise to £500m by the end of the decade. The ICI Electronics Group has already announced two acquisitions and two joint ventures and our existing business with the electronics industry amounting to over £30m a year is targeted to grow to £250m by the end of the decade.

If our plans are realised these three developments will themselves produce a very significant volume of new, more profitable higher added-value business within the next ten years.

High hopes - from new business development

Closely related to new business development is Research and Development where we have plenty of potential in the pipelines:

- Advanced polymer composites - of great interest to aircraft manufacturers.
- Biotechnology - where our large scale continuous fermentation technology gives us an advantage.
- New herbicides, fungicides and plant growth regulators.
- The whole area of immunology.

The whole aim of this Research and Development activity is to get the maximum push into the market place and I know it is equalled only by the pull from ICI marketers hungry for new products.

I have already touched upon our strong cash position and balance sheet. Our gearing, that is the extent to which we are financing ourselves by borrowings, is as low as it has been for more than a decade.

Territorial strength to make things happen

Our territorial strength is truly a major asset. For a decade ICI growth in Europe has been three times that of the European chemicals market as a

whole; sales in the expanding markets of the Pacific are now well over £1bn; and within this are sales of £300m a year in Japan.

To service our large US holding we decided to seek a quotation on the New York Stock Exchange. This stimulated further investment and the US holding is now 16%. We welcome this interest.

FURTHER FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Cash surplus generated in 1983 was £482m compared with £29m in 1982.
- Net liquid resources of £445m compared with £64m at the end of 1982.
- Plastics and petrochemicals business turned round from £139m loss in 1982 to a profit in 1983 second half, with savings of £100m in fixed costs and £40m in variable costs over last 3 years in Western Europe.

We're determined to get the results

Our intention now is to do our very best to fulfil your expectation for continued improvement. Shareholders have shared the difficulties of the past few years and have given support and understanding when we needed it. Now that things are improving we intend that you should share in success. The first time I spoke to you I said it was our firm intention to improve the return to shareholders as soon as earnings permitted. Our action in more than restoring the dividend in 1983 is evidence of it.

I believe we should be able to look forward to further improvement because I believe we've got the people, we've got the products, we've got the strategy, we've got the strength and we're determined to build on the success of 1983 and get the results too.



Imperial Chemical Industries PLC

Manufacture pillows, bag, furnishing feather and

As the US election nears, Dr Martin Feldstein is winning the economic argument. Peter Wilson-Smith reports

Administration finally heeds thorn in its side

Dr Martin Feldstein, chairman of President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisors, has long been a thorn in the side of the US Administration with his outspoken calls for action to reduce the Government's burgeoning budget deficit, with tax increases and spending cuts.

His public statements have frequently been at odds with the views expressed by both the President and Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury Secretary. White House attempts to gag him gave way to open criticism and a much publicised row towards the end of last year, raising speculation that he was under pressure to resign.

But Mr Feldstein has survived and, unlike those of Cassandra, his warnings have been noted and, subject to Congress, are being heeded. Last month, the Administration reached agreement with Congressional Republicans on a package to cut the deficit by \$140 billion (£104 billion) over three years.

Not that this has put an end to the open inconsistencies within the Administration over economic policy, although as one senior US official observed "consistency is not a requirement of political discourse in Washington."

Last week at the International Monetary Fund interim committee meeting in Washington, Mr Donald Regan hit back at the barrage of criticism over the US deficit problem, saying it was not the cause of all the world's economic woes and it was no good everyone else blaming their difficulties on the US.

In particular, he repeated his view that there was no hard evidence of a link between the budget deficit, US interest rates and secular trends in the value of the dollar.

Dr Feldstein, seen by exasperated European officials as one of the isolated rocks amid the shifting sands of US economic policy, finds it hard to hide his frustration at the way Administration colleagues still seem to suggest the deficit does not matter. And, in an interview with *The Times*, he

left no doubt that his position has not changed.

He said: "If you ask virtually any professional economist what he believes the weight of the evidence is, he will tell you that the evidence indicates that large budget deficits lead to high interest rates and high real interest rates lead to a strong dollar. Market interest rates rose in the late seventies and the dollar fell. But the theory is all about real interest rates."

To those who argue that the dire predictions made about the consequences of the deficit have failed to materialize, Dr Feldstein replied: "Real interest rates are very high and we have got a \$100m dollar plus merchandise trade deficit this year."

However, he conceded that there were benefits too. Demand is stronger than it otherwise would have been. Part of the deficit reflects cuts in business taxes and this has helped to stimulate business investment. For other countries there is a trade off between the benefits of the trade deficit and the problems, particularly for debtor countries caused by high interest rates.

"What the net effect is probably differs from country to country. For a country like France, in which the trade balance is a kind of binding constraint on their scope for domestic inflationary action, the strong dollar has been basically a help."

The Administration's budget-cutting proposals have met a lukewarm response in financial markets. Official projections are for the budget deficit to be running at \$200 billion by the end of the decade, assuming interest rates come down, while the Congressional Budget Office is projecting \$300 billion on the basis of unchanged interest rates. In the context of annual figures, of this scale, is the package of cuts simply a sop to the critics?

Dr Feldstein was adamant that this was not the case and that the measures proposed would have a significant impact on the problem. "What this does is to say that as a

6 People do see the budget deficit as a problem. Virtually everybody in Washington sees the budget deficit as a problem. The surveys show that the American public feels the deficit is a problem. The congressmen, come back from their week-ends at home and say that it's the principle economic question which their constituents ask. The president has felt strongly all along that the budget deficit is a problem. 9



Dr Martin Feldstein

minimum we will reduce deficits by \$25 billion in the fiscal year which starts about six months from now, \$50 billion odd in the fiscal year which begins a year later, \$70 billion in the year after that, mounting up to about \$100 billion annually by the end of the decade, which is half to a third of the total deficit spending depending on how you estimate it. But with a clear understand-

ing that more will be done in 1985."

This last point, Dr Feldstein said, was critical, because it made clear that the package was just a first step with more to come.

"If the rhetoric which surrounded it was 'Well this it, we have done it, we will grow our way out of the rest, that would be very disturbing. But I think seen as the downpayment,

with everybody understanding that it is just a downpayment, it is a fairly remarkable accomplishment during an election year."

So why are the financial markets still sceptical as they undoubtedly are?

"I believe the financial markets eventually get these things right. But I do not believe they necessarily get them right, right away."

Dr Feldstein is a firm believer in the concept of a medium term strategy towards fiscal policy, of the kind employed in Britain and a gradualistic approach to deficit cutting. "Over the next five years I would like to see us moving towards a balanced budget. And I think that is do-able starting where we start."

He would like to see further measures on the deficit, on top of the present package, introduced in 1985 and argues it should be possible to balance within this timescale without causing a collapse in demand.

Should action on the deficit fail to emerge from the lengthy Congressional process, Dr Feldstein remained as gloomy as ever about the possible consequences. It would heighten the risk of a sharp drop in the dollar, leading to rising prices, higher interest rates and a slowing economy.

"If it goes through I am not sure what direction the dollar moves. I can imagine small movements either up or down. I can imagine with lower interest rates the dollar would come down a bit or with greater confidence, if we got our act together, the dollar would rise a bit."

Over time, however, he said, the dollar was likely to come down, had to come down, so the US could move towards more of a current account balance. "But would I like the dollar to be 25 per cent lower now? No. Because I would not like the consequences that would imply for the domestic capital markets, such as higher interest rates."

Subject again to progress on the deficit and to a continued steady policy at the Federal Reserve, Dr Feldstein was relaxed about the pace of growth in the US economy. "I would not want to see 7 per cent real growth for the year," he said, but cited recent retail sales and unemployment figures as clear evidence of a slowdown, and he now expected real growth of about 5 per cent in 1984.

He added that there was no evidence on the prices side that the economy was overheating, with wages growing at an annual rate of less than 3 per cent and consumer prices rising at 4 to 5 per cent.

What though of interest rates? Market rates have risen in the US and real rates are high. American voters are increasingly conscious of movements in short-term interest rates because of the big swing in the US away from fixed to floating rate mortgages and some observers suggest that barring any unexpected foreign policy upset, rising interest rates could pose one of the biggest threats to the re-election prospects of the President. Did Dr Feldstein expect rates to rise?

Dr Feldstein never means to be terribly specific on interest rate forecasts. But he said: "I would not be surprised if short-term rates did rise a bit between now and the year-end, but I think it is possible the yield curve will flatten if the financial markets understand that this package is real and serious and is the first step."

Over to Congress.

Scottish Life Investments

INSURANCE FUNDS

| | 1983 | 1982 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|
| Net Managed | 95.9 | 104.3 |
| Property | 95.3 | 106.6 |
| UK Equity | 101.2 | 108.9 |
| European | 96.8 | 103.9 |
| Pacific | 103.8 | 109.4 |
| International | 94.5 | 104.6 |
| Fixed Income | 101.1 | 106.3 |
| Index Linked | 97.8 | 103.1 |
| Deposits | 95.6 | 103.7 |
| Other | 98.0 | 105.1 |
| Pen Managed | 99.7 | 105.1 |
| Pen Property | 105.7 | 108.9 |
| Pen UK Equity | 100.6 | 106.1 |
| Pen European | 99.4 | 104.7 |
| Pen Pacific | 105.5 | 111.1 |
| Pen International | 100.2 | 105.6 |
| Pen Fixed Inc | 95.0 | 100.1 |
| Pen Index Ltd | 96.4 | 103.7 |
| Pen Deposits | 96.1 | 101.3 |

Scottish Life
19 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh
Telephone: 031-225 2211

Base Lending Rates

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| ABN Bank | 8 1/2% |
| Barclays | 8 1/2% |
| BCCI | 8 1/2% |
| Citibank Savings | 8 1/2% |
| Consolidated Crd | 8 1/2% |
| Continental Trust | 8 1/2% |
| C. Hoare & Co | 8 1/2% |
| Lloyds Bank | 8 1/2% |
| Midland Bank | 8 1/2% |
| Nat Westminster | 8 1/2% |
| TSB | 8 1/2% |
| Williams & Glyn's | 8 1/2% |

7 day deposits on basis of 1000
£10,000, 8 1/2%, £10,000 up to
£50,000, 9%, £50,000 and
over, 9 1/2%

ANNUAL REPORT 1983

Ultramar

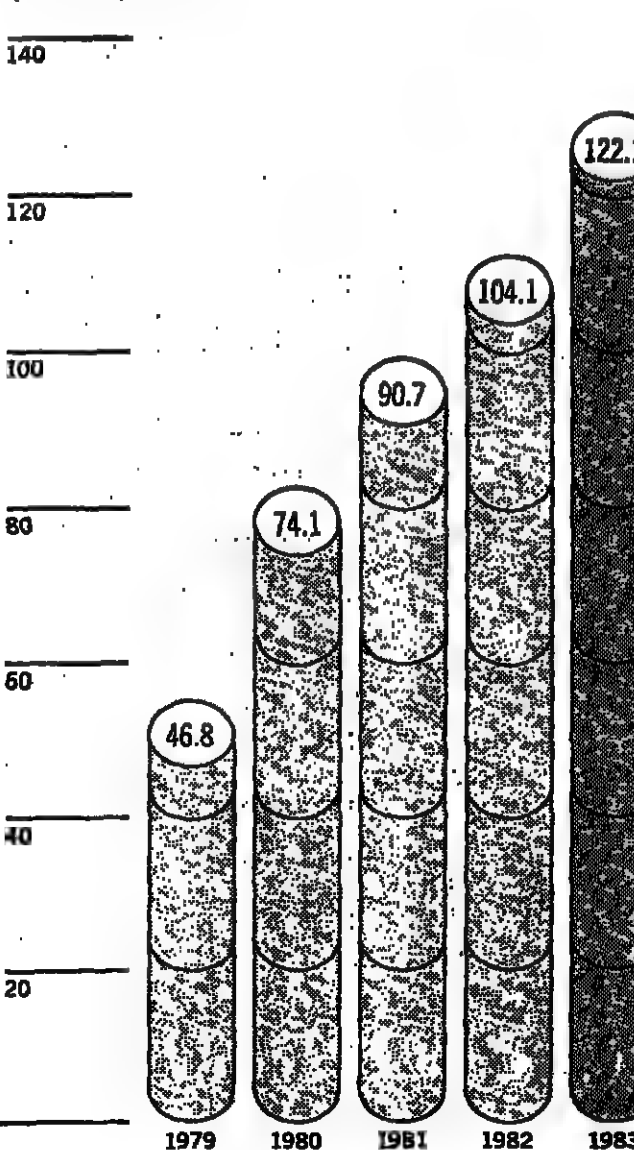
A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT

The year in brief:

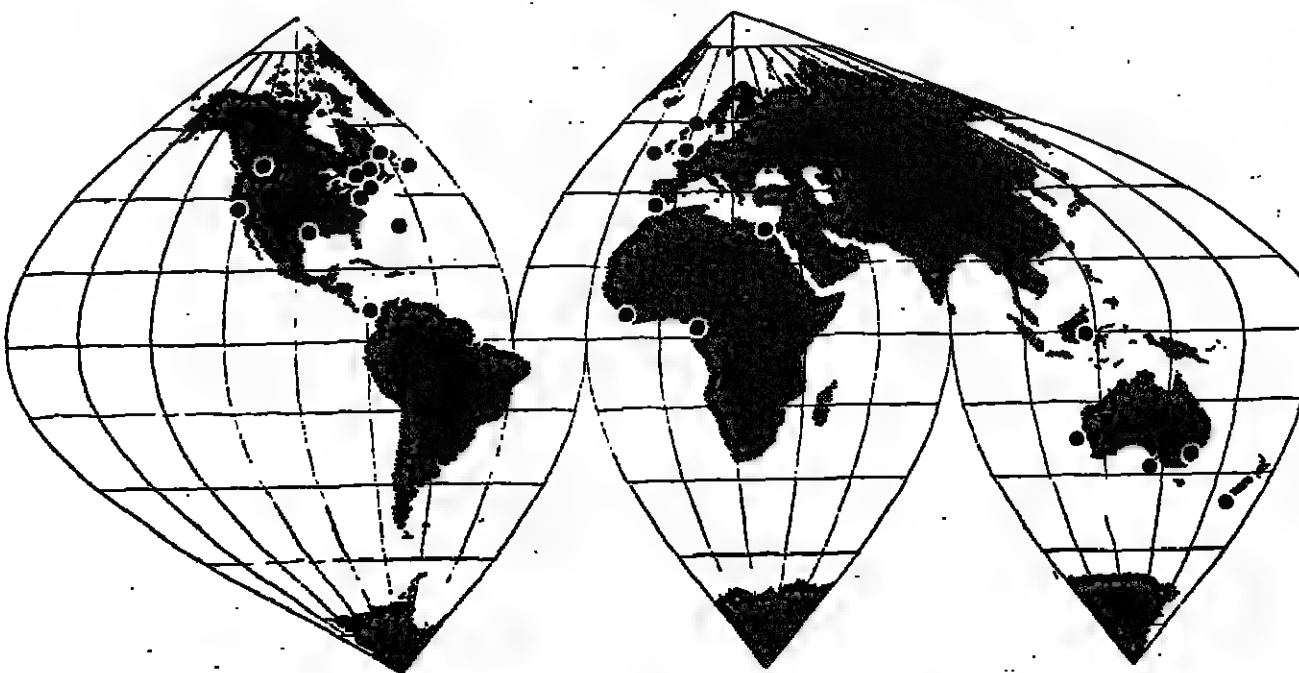
- Turnover for the first time exceeded £2 billion.
- Net profit up 17% to £122.1 million.
- Net dividend increased from 15p to 17p per Share.
- £105 million rights issue successfully completed.
- A one-for-one capitalisation issue is proposed.
- Capital expenditures exceeded £300 million. A similar level is expected in 1984.
- Quebec Refinery upgrading, LNG Plant expansion and Maureen Field development all completed.
- Marketing network in North America significantly expanded.
- Oil production up 10% and gas production up 8%.

Ultramar looks forward to a record year in 1984.

NET PROFIT (£ million)



ULTRAMAR WORLDWIDE



Ultramar

Morgan House, 1 Angel Court
London EC2R 7AU

For a copy of the 1983 Annual Report please write to the Company Secretary at the above address.

Church

(Manufacturers and retailers of quality shoes)

66 Order books are at record levels and exports are particularly buoyant 99

reports Ian B Church, Chairman

- Pre-tax profits rose 51% to £2.79 million on turnover up 14% to £44.41 million. Earnings per share rose from 22.7p to 33.7p and a final dividend of 8p per share will make 11p for the year — an increase of 16%.
- Exports totalled £6 million and our companies in the US, Canada, Belgium and France all achieved excellent results.
- Although it was not a particularly good year for retailing in the UK, our manufacturing companies — Church & Cheaney — enjoyed a record year.
- Business in 1984 has started well with exports continuing to be excellent and another good year is in prospect.

| Comparative results | 1983 | 1982 |
|---------------------|-------|-------|
| | £m | £m |
| Sales | 44.41 | 39.08 |
| Trading profit | 3.58 | 2.63 |
| Profit before tax | 2.79 | 1.85 |
| Earnings per share | 33.7p | 22.7p |
| Dividend per share | 11.0p | 8.5p |

Report and accounts will be posted to shareholders on 18th April 1984.
Church & Co. PLC.,
St. James, Northampton NN5 5JB

fogarty plc

YEAR TO 31st DECEMBER

| | 1983 £'000 | 1982 £'000 |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Sales | 34,315 | 35,782 |
| Profit/(Loss) before taxation | 1,658 | (12) |
| Taxation | 338 | 207 |
| Profit/(Loss) after taxation | 1,321 | (219) |
| Extraordinary item | 81 | 81 |
| Preference Dividend | 402 | 402 |
| Ordinary Dividend | 4.02p | 4.02p |
| Total dividend per ordinary share | 4.02p | 4.02p |
| Earnings/(Loss) per ordinary share | 12.4p | (3.0p) |

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

With most retailers fully stocked and a slow down in consumer spending on household textiles, there has been a slow start to the current year. The effect of this and the recent strike mean that it is doubtful whether a profit will be shown for the first half of 1984. It will require an improvement in trading conditions in the second half for full year profits to be similar to last, and it is too early to say whether this will materialize.

Manufacturers of continental quilts, pillows, bath and scatter rugs, soft furnishings, and processors of feather and down fillings.

Godfrey Davis **europcar**

Rally continues

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

Complaint about police is not privileged in defamation

Conerney v Jacklin

Before Mr Justice Hirst

[Judgment delivered April 18]

A defendant, who had made a written complaint against a police constable, was not entitled to claim public interest immunity from proceedings based upon the written complaint nor was he entitled to claim that such complaint was not capable of production and discovery.

Mr Richard Yorke, QC and Mr Andrew Caldecott for the plaintiff, Mr Arnold J. Cooper for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE HIRST said that the plaintiff, Mr Anthony Conerney, was a police constable stationed at Witham, Essex. The defendant, Mr Timothy Ronald Jacklin, was charged with a number of road traffic offences connected with driving a motor vehicle improperly while being a learner driver.

The plaintiff was the principal witness for the prosecution. The defendant was convicted and fined and did not appeal.

By a formal written complaint made pursuant to section 49 of the Police Act 1964, the defendant laid a complaint before junior and senior officers and the police complaints board against the plaintiff's conduct in relation to the prosecution.

formal written complaint. The point of law raised by the defence was whether the defendant was entitled to claim public interest immunity and thereby bar the plaintiff's cause of action.

Before the police complaints board no more than a short précis of the complaint was made available to the plaintiff. The full text of the complaint on which the action was based was obtained by the plaintiff under the Police (Copies of Complaints) Regulations (SI 1977 No 579).

The principles on which a claim for public interest immunity against the use or production of a document in legal proceedings was based were well established. The defendant sought to rely on the principle that public interest immunity protected the identity of informers from disclosure. It was submitted that the position of the defendant as a complainant was analogous to that of an informer.

It was submitted that it was of vital importance that people should not be inhibited from the fearless presentation of complaints in order to make the statutory procedure as effective as possible so that public confidence in the police could be maintained.

On behalf of the plaintiff it was not disputed that any evidence given to a police complaints board or other similar body whether in the form of written statements or actual testimony was protected by public interest immunity.

It was clear beyond any doubt that the document in question was a complaint. There was a fundamental distinction between a complaint on the one hand and statements or

other forms of evidence on the other.

Unquestionably there was a complete embargo on public interest grounds on the use of evidence, in all its stages of preparation, whether in the form of a statement or in the form of actual testimony.

Nelson v Laugharne ([1981] QB 736) and *Hutchins v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis* ([1982] 1 WLR 715) applied to statements as such and did not extend the embargo to complaints.

It was almost impossible to conclude that a blanket public interest immunity prohibited the use in defamation proceedings of complaints.

The civil cause of action for malicious prosecution and other similar abuses of judicial process showed that the law recognized the use in defamation proceedings of complaints as a means of process without reasonable and probable cause, the very essence of which was reliance on the originating process by which the proceedings in question started. The present claim was closely analogous to such proceedings.

Taking all relevant aspects into account the balance between the two competing interests came down overwhelmingly in favour of the plaintiff, permitting the use of the complaint for the purpose of the plaintiff's defamation proceedings.

To bar a police officer from asserting that he was the victim of a malicious accusation or perjury would constitute a very serious denial of justice. There was no harm to the public interest in allowing the document to be used.

Solicitors: Russell Jones & Walker, Jeffrey Gordon & Co, Battersea.

Highways authority liable for tree roots damage

Russell and Another v Barnet London Borough Council

Before Mr Justice Tudor Evans

[Judgment delivered April 18]

The highway authority were liable in nuisance for damage caused to property by the roots of two ancient oak trees, although the trees were owned by the owners of property adjoining the highway.

Mr Justice Tudor Evans so held in the Queen's Bench Division giving judgment for the plaintiffs, Clive Russell and Angela Marion Russell against the highway authority.

Mr Dermot O'Brien, QC and Mr David E. Thomas for the plaintiffs, Clive Russell and Angela Marion Russell against the highway authority.

MR JUSTICE TUDOR EVANS said that the plaintiffs claimed that extensive structural movement to their house had been caused by the roots of two oak trees growing in the pavement outside the house. The plaintiffs claimed damages in nuisance against the defendants who were the highway authority.

The plaintiffs contended that the defendants were the owners of the two trees but if they were not, they exercised sufficient control over the trees to make them liable in nuisance and negligence for the damage caused. Both trees began life in about 1835.

It was established that the soil of the highway belonged to the owners of the land adjoining the highway. That presumption was rebuttable. The plaintiffs relied, *inter alia*, on section 149 of the Public Health Act 1875 to show that the two trees were owned by the defendants.

The plaintiffs submitted that the effect of that section was to vest the street and everything forming a part of it, including all trees, whether planted before or after the vesting, in the authority. It was submitted that the highway authority had some proprietary interest in all the trees which were growing in the highway even if they ante-dated adoption.

Having considered the authorities, his Lordship considered that section 149 was not dealing with pre-adoption trees and the trees did not vest in and were not under the control of the defendants within section 149.

That section was repealed by the Highways Act 1959. Under section 82 of the 1959 Act the highway authority had limited control over trees planted by the authority. Section 82(1) was amended by section 5 of the Highways (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1961.

The plaintiffs contended that from 1961 the defendants had the right to maintain and control the trees, that they in fact did so and that they were therefore capable of being held liable in nuisance for damage caused to an adjoining owner.

Section 82 (5), as amended,

applied to all trees, pre and post adoption. The defendants had power to maintain all trees and were prohibited from allowing them to become a nuisance.

The fact that the plaintiffs were presumed in law to have been the owners of the trees was not a bar to an action by them in nuisance against the defendants who were in occupation of the street, save for the sub-soil beneath it, who were in control of the trees and who since 1961 with legal authority exercised control over them.

His Lordship then considered the evidence in relation to whether the defendants exercised their powers to do what was expedient for the maintenance or protection of the trees. The defendants did not confine the maintenance of the trees to their functions as a highway authority.

The defendants were aware or ought to have been aware of the risks caused to adjoining buildings by the encroachment of the roots of trees and of oaks in particular. The defendants had specific knowledge of the risks involved with both oak trees and were aware of the risks involved.

The defendants could have reasonably foreseen the risk and damage to the plaintiffs' house from the oak trees and they knew or ought to have known that the roots had penetrated into the property under the foundations.

It was reasonably practicable to take steps at least to minimize the risk. Steps were not taken because the defendants believed that they had no legal responsibility for an ancient tree. The defendants had specific notice that one of the trees was actually causing damage, they could have taken steps in time to avoid the damage but did nothing. Accordingly they were liable to the plaintiffs in nuisance.

Solicitors: L. Walmore & Co, Barlow Lyde & Gilbert.

Code for licensing sex shops

Ex parte Quilley's Ltd

In the case of Quilley's Ltd, who were seeking sex shop licences from various local authorities (*The Times*, April 18), the court gave reasons for its decision on April 2 to allow the residents to join the Attorney General as a defendant in the action.

Mr John Macdonald, QC and Mr Owen Davies for the residents, Mr John Munnery for the Attorney General.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said the present application was to join the British Military Commandant of Berlin and the Attorney General as defendants in place of the Ministry of Defence, against which the court had already decided that the proceedings should be struck out. It should be mentioned that the British Commandant would be sued both in his personal capacity and on behalf of the Crown. Counsel for the Ministry was now representing the Attorney General. The British Commandant was not represented.

The case for the Attorney General was that any claim against him was

Allowing capital losses of non-resident trustees

Ritchie (Inspector of Taxes) v McKay

Before Mr Justice Nourse

[Judgment delivered April 18]

In computing the amount of gains accruing to non-resident trustees and on which United Kingdom resident beneficiaries were chargeable to capital gains tax by virtue of section 42(2) of the Finance Act 1965, unrelieved capital losses from earlier years were allowable as a deduction from chargeable gains accruing in the year of assessment.

Mr Justice Nourse so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the Crown from a determination of the special commissioners discharging an assessment to the tax on Mr Peter McKay, a United Kingdom resident, for 1975-76 in the sum of £3,405.

The assessment had been made on him in respect of gains from disposals of settled property held by non-resident trustees for the benefit of Mr McKay's wife.

During 1974-75 non-resident trustees of a settlement made by Mr McKay's wife in 1968 suffered capital losses of £41,536 in 1975-76. The tax inspector raised an assessment on the taxpayer on the basis that it was just under section 42(2) of the Finance Act 1965 to apportion the whole of the gain to Mr McKay. Mr McKay's appeal against the assessment was allowed by the commissioners who held that he was entitled to deduct so much of

the earlier year's losses as was required to extinguish the capital gain.

[Section 83(6) of the Finance Act 1981 enacted that such unrelieved losses were allowed as a deduction from chargeable gains accruing in any year after April 5, 1981.]

Mr C. H. McCall for the Crown, Mr G. O. A. Sebestyen for Mr McKay.

MR JUSTICE NOURSE said that the broad effect of section 42 was to tax United Kingdom resident beneficiaries on capital gains relating to settled property held by non-resident trustees.

Section 20(4) of the Act provided for the tax to be charged on the total amount of gains accruing to a person in a year of assessment, after deducting allowable losses accruing to that person in that year of assessment and, so far as they have not been allowed in previous years, allowable losses accruing to that person in any previous year.

By section 23(6) it was enacted that "a loss accruing to a person in a year of assessment during no part of which he is resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom shall not be an allowable loss."

Section 23(2) provided for a computation of the amount of gains which the trustee would have been chargeable under section 20(4) "if domiciled and either resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom in the year of assessment."

Kingdom in the year of assessment."

The dispute was as to the application of that hypothesis. So far as it applied, section 23(6) was eliminated and losses which would not be allowable by reason of the non-residence of the trustees became allowable. For the purposes of the computation under section 20(4) the hypothesis eliminate section 23(6) only in the year of assessment under review or in respect of previous years as well.

Could the loss of £41,536 be said to be an allowable loss accruing to the trustees in any previous year of assessment for the purposes of the third limb of section 20(4)? The Crown argued that the section 42(2) hypothesis applied only to the year of assessment under review, that is, 1975-76, so that in making the computation in that year section 23(6) was not eliminated in regard to 1974-75 and the losses accruing in that year were not allowable losses in the later year.

But that result could only be arrived at by giving an unnatural meaning to the words of section 20(4). There was no doubt that in making the computation for 1975-76, the losses of £41,536 could be fairly described as allowable losses accruing to the trustees in a previous year of assessment. The commissioners' determination was correct.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Kennedy, Ponsbury & Pridaev.

Joining the Attorney General

Trawick v Ministry of Defence

Before Sir Robert Megarry, Vice-Chancellor

[Reasons delivered April 16]

In proceedings which had been brought against the Ministry of Defence by residents of houses adjoining Gatow Airfield in the British sector of Berlin (*The Times*, April 18), the court gave reasons for its decision on April 2 to allow the residents to join the Attorney General as a defendant in the action.

Mr John Macdonald, QC and Mr Owen Davies for the residents, Mr John Munnery for the Attorney General.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said the present application was to join the British Military Commandant of Berlin and the Attorney General as defendants in place of the Ministry of Defence, against which the court had already decided that the proceedings should be struck out. It should be mentioned that the British Commandant would be sued both in his personal capacity and on behalf of the Crown. Counsel for the Ministry was now representing the Attorney General. The British Commandant was not represented.

The case for the Attorney General was that any claim against him was bound to fail and so it was wrong to add him as a defendant.

Under the Crown Proceedings Act 1947 "civil proceedings against the Crown" had to be brought against the appropriate government department - here the Ministry of Defence - and the provision under section 17(3) was mandatory. It included proceedings against the Attorney General in tort.

For the residents, it was said that section 17(3) had no application to the present action; by virtue of section 40(2) (b) and the secretary of state's certificate, which had been relied upon by counsel for the ministry as preventing them from suing the ministry, nothing in the Act was to "authorize proceedings to be taken against the Crown under or in accordance with this Act". The one being made outside the Act, not "under or in accordance with it".

They were not precluded from suing those who were legal persons; and although the claim was in tort, section 1 of the Act had removed any inability of a plaintiff to sue the Crown or any Crown servant in tort. Section 31(2) of the Act did not apply to such proceedings and in any case a declaration against either of the proposed defendants would not constitute relief against the Crown which could not have been obtained in proceedings against the Crown.

The court was far from being sure how far the argument for the

residents would hold water. At the same time it was for them to decide initially who the defendants were to be. If they joined a defendant who ought not to be joined the defendants' course was to apply to have such a claim struck out.

The 1947 Act was by no means simple and the court was not infrequently sure of the inevitability of success of the case on behalf of the Attorney General in that the case against him should be struck out. Nor was the court at all clear about the status of the government of the British sector of Berlin.

The plaintiffs must certainly ought to have their claim tested in some court somewhere. They had been thwarted in Berlin by being prevented by the Allied Commandant from suing in the German courts and by the failure to set up a High Court in the British sector, and now they were faced once more with procedural difficulties - this time by the complexities of the 1947 Act.

Had the court been satisfied that proceedings against the Attorney General would fail, leave would not have been given to join him, but although having serious doubts whether they would succeed, the court was satisfied that they would fail, and in so far as the matter rested within the court's discretion it would be unhesitatingly exercised in favour of allowing the joinder.

Solicitors: Selient Sedley & Co, Treasury Solicitor.

Contractual duty to disclose breach

Stag Line Ltd v Tyne Ship-repair Group Ltd and Another

Before Mr Justice Staughton

[Judgment delivered April 11]

Although there was no general duty upon a party who was in breach of contract to inform the other party of his breach, there were circumstances where the court would imply into the contract a term imposing such a duty.

Mr Justice Staughton so held in a reserved judgment in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division awarding the plaintiff nominal damages of £2,110 against the second defendant, Wallend Dry Docks Ltd, for breach of contract. The second defendant had used the wrong material in relining the stern tube of the plaintiff's ship, but the court found that the plaintiff had suffered no damage as a result.

Mr David R. N. Hunt and Mr Richard Gillis for the plaintiff, Mr Neville Thomas, QC and Mr J. Ronald Moffatt for the defendants and the third party, Middle Docks and Engineering Co Ltd.

MR JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that a shiprepairer owed a contractual duty to exercise reason-

able skill and care, by himself, his employees or anyone else to whom he delegated the task, to ensure that proper materials had been used.

When the second defendant discovered that the wrong material had been used, it had been under a contractual duty to inform the plaintiff of that fact in view of the likelihood of the tube being examined for four years, of the fact that the rules of the classification society had been infringed, and of the possible danger to life at sea as well as to very valuable property.

The plaintiff had argued that certain exclusion clauses in the defendant's standard terms of business were unfair and unreasonable, and therefore ineffective to restrict its liability by virtue of section 3 of the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977. In considering the relative bargaining power of the parties his Lordship could not take into account how busy the defendant was at the time the contract was made, because that was not the intention that standard terms could be fair and reasonable one week when business was slack but unfair and unreasonable the

next week when the defendant was busy.

Relative bargaining power must be judged by somewhat broader considerations. The courts would be slow to find clauses in commercial contracts made between parties of equal bargaining power to be unfair or unreasonable, but a provision in a contract, which deprived a shipowner of any remedy for breach of contract or contractual negligence unless the vessel were returned to the repairer's yard for the defect to be remedied, would be unfair and unreasonable because it would be the effectiveness of the remedy would depend upon where the ship was when the casualty occurred and whether it would be practical or economic to return the vessel to the defendant's yard.

Paragraph (d) of Schedule 2 to the 1977 Act was relevant here. The daily fee of a High Court judge's marshals was £2.10 and that was therefore a suitable sum to award as nominal damages.

Solicitors: Botterell, Roche & Pybus, Newcastle upon Tyne; Hyde, Mahon & Paskall for Wilkinson, Marshall, Clayton & Gibson, Newcastle upon Tyne.

| 1983-84 | | | | 1982-83 | | | | 1981-82 | | | | 1980-81 | | | | 1979-80 | | | | 1978-79 | | | | 1977-78 | | | | 1976-77 | | | | 1975-76 | | | | 1974-75 | | | | 1973-74 | | | | 1972-73 | | | | 1971-72 | | | | 1970-71 | | | | 1969-70 | | | | 1968-69 | | | | 1967-68 | | | | 1966-67 | | | | 1965-66 | | | | 1964-65 | | | | 1963-64 | | | | 1962-63 | | | | 1961-62 | | | | 1960-61 | | | | 1959-60 | | | | 1958-59 | | | | 1957-58 | | | | 1956-57 | | | | 1955-56 | | | | 1954-55 | | | | 1953-54 | | | | 1952-53 | | | | 1951-52 | | | | 1950-51 | | | | 1949-50 | | | | 1948-49 | | | | 1947-48 | | | | 1946-47 | | | | 1945-46 | | | | 1944-45 | | | | 1943-44 | | | | 1942-43 | | | | 1941-42 | | | | 1940-41 | | | | 1939-40 | | | | 1938-39 | | | | 1937-38 | | | | 1936-37 | | | | 1935-36 | | | | 1934-35 | | | | 1933-34 | | | | 1932-33 | | | | 1931-32 | | | | 1930-31 | | | | 1929-30 | | | | 1928-29 | | | | 1927-28 | | | | 1926-27 | | | | 1925-26 | | | | 1924-25 | | | | 1923-24 | | | | 1922-23 | | | | 1921-22 | | | | 1920-21 | | | | 1919-20 | | | | 1918-19 | | | | 1917-18 | | | | 1916-17 | | | | 1915-16 | | | | 1914-15 | | | | 1913-14 | | | | 1912-13 | | | | 1911-12 | | | | 1910-11 | | | | 1909-10 | | | | 1908-09 | | | | 1907-08 | | | | 1906-07 | | | | 1905-06 | | | | 1904-05 | | | | 1903-04 | | | | 1902-03 | | | | 1901-02 | | | | 1900-01 | | | | 1899-00 | | | | 1898-99 | | | | 1897-98 | | | | 1896-97 | | | | 1895-96 | | | | 1894-95 | | | | 1893-94 | | | | 1892-93 | | | | 1891-92 | | | | 1890-91 | | | | 1889-90 | | | | 1888-89 | | | | 1887-88 | | | | 1886-87 | | | | 1885-86 | | | | 1884-85 | | | | 1883-84 | | | | 1882-83 | | | | 1881-82 | | | | 1880-81 | | | | 1879-80 | | | | 1878-79 | | | | 1877-78 | | | | 1876-77 | | | | 1875-76 | | | | 1874-75 | | | | 1873-74 | | | | 1872-73 | | | | 1871-72 | | | | 1870-71 | | | | 1869-70 | | | | 1868-69 | | | | 1867-68 | | | | 1866-67 | | | | 1865-66 | | | | 1864-65 | | | | 1863-64 | | | | 1862-63 | | | | 1861-62 | | | | 1860-61 | | | | 1859-60 | | | | 1858-59 | | | | 1857-58 | | | | 1856-57 | | | | 1855-56 | | | | 1854-55 | | | | 1853-54 | | | | 1852-53 | | | | 1851-52 | | | | 1850-51 | | | | 1849-50 | | | | 1848-49 | | | | 1847-48 | | | | 1846-47 | | | | 1845-46 | | | | 1844-45 | | | | 1843-44 | | | | 1842-43 | | | | 1841-42 | | | | 1840-41 | | | | 1839-40 | | | | 1838-39 | | | | 1837-38 | | | | 1836-37 | | | | 1835-36 | | | | 1834-35 | | | | 1833-34 | | | | 1832-33 | | | | 1831-32 | | | | 1830-31 | | | | 1829-30 | | | | 1828-29 | | | | 1827-28 | | | | 1826-27 | | | | 1825-26 | | | | 1824-25 | | | | 1823-24 | | | | 1822-23 | | | | 1821-22 | | | | 1820-21 | | | | 1819-20 | | | | 1818-19 | | | | 1817-18 | | | | 1816-17 | | | | 1815-16 | | | | 1814-15 | | | | 1813-14 | | | | 1812-13 | | | | 1811-12 | | | | 1810-11 | | | | 1809-10 | | | | 1808-09 | | | | 1807-08 | | | | 1806-07 | | | | 1805-06 | | | | 1804-05 | | | | 1803-04 | | | | 1802-03 | | | | 1801-02 | | | | 1800-01 | | | | 1799-00 | | | | 1798-99 | | | | 1797-98 | | | | 1796-97 | | | | 1795-96 | | | | 1794-95 | | | | 1793-94 | | | | 1792-93 | | | | 1791-92 | | | | 1790-91 | | | | 1789-90 | | | | 1788-89 | | | | 1787-88 | | | | 1786-87 | | | | 1785-86 | | | | 1784-85 | | | | 1783-84 | | | | 1782-83 | | | | 1781-82 | | | | 1780-81 | | | | 1779-80 | | | | 1778-79 | | | | 1777-78 | | | | 1776-77 | | | | 1775-76 | | | | 1774-75 | | | | 1773-74 | | | | 1772-73 | | | | 1771-72 | | | | 1770-71 | | | | 1769-70 | | | | 1768-69 | | | | 1767-68 | | | | 1766-67 | | | | 1765-66 | | | | 1764-65 | | | | 1763-64 | | | | 1762-63 | | | | 1761-62 | | | | 1760-61 | | | | 1759-60 | | | | 1758-59 | | | | 1757-58 | | | | 1756-57 | | | | 1755-56 | | | | 1754-55 | | | | 1753-54 | | | | 1752-53 | | | | 1751-52 | | | | 1750-51 | | | | 1749-50 | | | | 1748-49 | | | | 1747-48 | | | | 1746-47 | | | | 1745-46 | | | | 1744-45 | | | | 1743-44 | | | | 1742-43 | | | | 1741-42 | | | | 1740-41 | | | | 1739-40 | | | | 1738-39 | | | | 1737-38 | | | | 1736-37 | | | | 1735-36 | | | | 1734-35 | | | | 1733-34 | | | | 1732-33 | | | | 1731-32 | | | | 1730-31 | | | | 1729-30 | | | | 1728-29 | | | | 1727-28 | | | | 1726-27 | | | | 1725-26 | | | | 1724-25 | | | | 1723-24 | | | | 1722-23 | | | | 1721-22 | | | | 1720-21 | | | | 1719-20 | | | | 1718-19 | | | | 1717-18 | | | | 1716-17 | | | | 1715-16 | | | | 1714-15 | | | | 1713-14 | | | | 1712-13 | | | | 1711-12 | | | | 1710-11 | | | | 1709-10 | | | | 1708-09 | | | | 1707-08 | | | | 1706-07 | | | | 1705-06 | | | | 1704-05 | | | | 1703-04 | | | | 1702-03 | | | | 1701-02 | | | | 1700-01 | | | | 1699-00 | | | | 1698-99 | | | | 1697-98 | | | | 1696-97 | | | | 1695-96 | | | | 1694-95 | | | | 1693-94 | | | | 1692-93 | | | | 1691-92 | | | | 1690-91 | | | | 1689-90 | | | | 1688-89 | | | | 1687-88 | | | | 1686-87 | | | | 1685-86 | | | | 1684-85 | | | | 1683-84 | | | | 1682-83 | | | | 1681-82 | | | | 1680-81 | | | | 1679-80 | | | | 1678-79 | | | | 1677-78 | | | | 1676-77 | | | | 1675-76 | | | | 1674-75 | | | | 1673-74 | | | | 1672-73 | | | | 1671-72 | | | | 1670-71 | | | | 1669-70 | | | | 1668-69 | | | | 1667-68 | | | | 1666-67 | | | | 1665-66 | | | | 1664-65 | | | | 1663-64 | | | | 1662-63 | | | | 1661-62 | | | | 1660-61 | | | | 1659-60 | | | | 1658-59 | | | | 1657-58 | | | | 1656-57 | | | | 1655-56 | | | | 1654-55 | | | | 1653-54 | | | | 1652-53 | | | | 1651-52 | | | | 1650-51 | | | | 1649-50 | | | | 1648-49 | | | | 1647-48 | | | | 1646-47 | | | | 1645-46 | | | | 1644-45 | | | | 1643-44 | | | | 1642-43 | | | | 1641-42 | | | | 1640-41 | | | | 1639-40 | | | | 1638-39 | | | | 1637-38 | | | | 1636-37 | | | | 1635-36 | | | | 1634-35 | | | | 1633-34 | | | | 1632-33 | | | | 1631-32 | | | | 1630-31 | | | | 1629-30 | | | | 1628-29 | | | | 1627-28 | | | | 1626-27 | | | | 1625-26 | | | | 1624-25 | | | | 1623-24 | | | | 1622-23 | | | | 1621-22 | | | | 1620-21 | | | | 1619-20 | | | | 1618-19 | | | | 1617-18 | | | | 1616-17 | | | | 1615-16 | | | | 1614-15 | | | | 1613-14 | | | | 1612-13 | | | | 1611-12 | | | | 1610-11 | | | | 1609-10 | | | | 1608-09 | | | | 1607-08 | | | | 1606-07 | | | | 1605-06 | | | | 1604-05 | | | | 1603-04 | | | | 1602-03 | | | | 1601-02 | | | | 1600-01 | | | | 1599-00 | | | | 1598-99 | | | | 1597-98 | | | | 1596-97 | | | | 1595-96 | | | | 1594-95 | | | | 1593-94 | | | | 1592-93 | | | | 1591-92 | | | | 1590-91 | | | | 1589-90 | | | | 1588-89 | | | | 1587-88 | | | | 1586-87 | | | | 1585-86 | | | | 1584-85 | | | | 1583-84 | | | | 1582-83 | | | | 1581-82 | | | | 1580-81 | | | | 1579-80 | | | | 1578-79 | | | | 1577-78 | | | | 1576-77 | | | | 1575-76 | | | | 1574-75 | | | | 1573-74 | | | | 1572-73 | | | | 1571-72 | | | | 1570-71 | | | | 1569-70 | | | | 1568-69 | | | | 1567-68 | | | | 1566-67 | | | | 1565-66 | | | | 1564-65 | | | | 1563-64 | | | | 1562-63 | | | | 1561-62 | | | | 1560-61 | | | | 1559-60 | | | | 1558-59 | | | | 1557-58 | | | | 1556-57 | | | | 1555-56 | | | | 1554-55 | | | | 1553-54 | | | | 1552-53 | | | | 1551-52 | | | | 1550-51 | | | | 1549-50 | | | | 1548-49 | | | | 1547-48 | | | | 1546-47 | | | | 1545-46 | | | | 1544-45 | | | | 1543-44 | | | | 1542-43 | | | | 1541-42 | | | | 1540-41 | | | | 1539-40 | | | | 1538-39 | | | | 1537-38 | | | | 1536-37 | | | | 1535-36 | | | | 1534-35 | | | | 1533-34 | | | | 1532-33 | | | | 1531-32 | | | | 1530-31 | | | | 1529-30 | | | | 1528-29 | | | | 1527-28 | | | | 1526-27 | | | | 1525-26 | | | | 1524-25 | | | | 1523-24 | | | | 1522-23 | | | | 1521-22 | | | | 1520-21 | | | | 1519-20 | | | | 1518-19 | | | | 1517-18 | | | | 1516-17 | | | | 1515-16 | | | | 1514-15 | | | | 1513-14 | | | | 1512-13 | | | | 1511-12 | | | | 1510-11 | | | | 1509-10 | | | | 1508-09 | | | | 1507-08 | | | | 1506-07 | | | | 1505-06 | | | | 1504-05 | | | | 1503-04 | | | | 1502-03 | | | | 1501-02 | | | | 1500-01 | | | | 1499-00 | | | | 1498-99 | | | | 1497-98 | | | | 1496-97 | | | | 1495-96 | | | | 1494-95 | | | | 1493-94 | | | | 1492-93 | | | | 1491-92 | | | | 1490-91 | | | | 1489-90 | | | | 1488-89 | | | | 1487-88 | | | | 1486-87 | | | | 1485-86 | | | | 1484-85 | | | | 1483-84 | | | | 1482-83 | | | | 1481-82 | | | | 1480-81 | | | | 1479-80 | | | | 1478-79 | | | | 1477-78 | | | | 1476-77 | | | | 1475-76 | | | | 1474-75 | | | | 1473-74 | | | | 1472-73 | | | | 1471-72 | | | | 1470-71 | | | | 1469-70 | | | | 1468-69 | | | | 1467-68 | | | | 1466-67 | | | | 1465-66 | | | | 1464-65 | | | | 1463-64 | | | | 1462-63 | | | | 1461-62 | | | | 1460-61 | | | | 1459-60 | | | | 1458-59 | | | | 1457-58 | | | | 1456-57 | | | | 1455-56 | | | | 1454-55 | | | | 1453-54 | | | | 1452-53 | | | | 1451-52 | | | | 1450-51 | | | | 1449-50 | | | | 1448-49 | | | | 1447-48 | | | | 1446-47 | | | | 1445-46 | | | | 1444-45 | | | | 1443-44 | | | | 1442-43 | | | | 1441-42 | | | | 1440-41 | | | | 1439-40 | | | | 1438-39 | | | | 1437-38 | | | | 1436-37 | | | | 1435-36 | | | | 1434-35 | | | | 1433-34 | | | | 1432-33 | | | | 1431-32 | | | | 1430-31 | | | | 1429-30 | | | | 1428-29 | | | | 1427-28 | | | | 1426-27 | | | | 1425-26 | | | | 1424-25 | | | | 1423-24 | | | | 1422-23 | | | | 1421-22 | | | | 1420-21 | | | | 1419-20 | | | | 1418-19 | | | | 1417-18 | | | | 1416-17 | | | | 1415-16 | | | | 1414-15 | | | | 1413-14 | | | | 1412-13 | | | | 1411-12 | | | | 1410-11 | | | | 1409-10 | | | | 1408-09 | | | | 1407-08 | | | | 1406-07 | | | | 1405-06 | | | | 1404-05 | | | | 1403-04 | | | | 1402-03 | | | | 1401-02 | | | | 1400-01 | | | | 1399-00 | | | | 1398-99 | | | | 1397-98 | | | | 1396-97 | | | | 1395-96 | | | | 1394-95 | | | | 1393-94 | | | | 1392-93 | | | | 1391-92 | | | | 1390-91 | | | | 1389-90 | | | | 1388-89 | | | | 1387-88 | | | | 1386-87 | | | | 1385-86 | | | | 1384-85 | | | | 1383-84 | | | | 1382-83 | | | | 1381-82 | | | | 1380-81 | | | | 1379-80 | | | | 1378-79 | | | | 1377-78 | | | | 1376-77 | | | | 1375-76 | | | | 1374-75 | | | | 1373-74 | | | | 1372-73 | | | | 1371-72 | | | | 1370-71 | | | | 1369-70 | | | | 1368-69 | | | | 1367-68 | | | | 1366-67 | | | | 1365-66 | | | | 1364-65 | | | | 1363-64 | | | | 1362-63 | | | | 1361-62 | | | | 1360-61 | | | | 1359-60 | | | | 1358-59 | | | | 1357-58 | | | | 1356-57 | | | | 1355-56 | | | | 1354-55 | | | | 1353-54 | | | | 1352-53 | | | | 1351-52 | | | | 1350-51 | | | | 1349-50 | | | | 1348-49 | | | | 1347-48 | | | | 1346-47 | | | | 1345-46 | | | | 1344-45 | | | | 1343-44 | | | | 1342-43 | | | | 1341-42 | | | | 1340-41 | | | | 1339-40 | | | | 1338-39 | | | | 1337-38 | | | | 1336-37 | | | | 1335-36 | | | | 1334-35 | | | | 1333-34 | | | | 1332-33 | | | | 1331-32 | | | | 1330-31 | | | | 1329-30 | | | | 1328-29 | | | | 1327-28 | | | | 1326-27 | | | | 1325-26 | | | | 1324-25 | | | | 1323-24 | | | | 1322-23 | | | | 1321-22 | | | | 1320-21 | | | | 1319-20 | | | | 1318-19 | | | | 1317-18 | | | | 1316-17 | | | | 1315-16 | | | | 1314-15 | | | | 1313-14 | | | | 1312-13 | | | | 1311-12 | | | | 1310-11 | | | | 1309-10 | | | | 1308-09 | | | | 1307-08 | | | | 1306-07 | | | | 1305-06 | | | | 1304-05 | | | | 1303-04 | | | | 1302-03 | | | | 1301-02 | | | | 1300-01 | | | | 1299-00 | | | | 1298-99 | | | | 1297-98 | | | | 1296-97 | | | | 1295-96 | | | | 1294-95 | | | | 1293-94 | | | | 1292-93 | | | | 1291-92 | | | | 1290-91 | | | | 1289-90 | | | | 1288-89 | | | | 1287-88 | | | | 1286-87 | | | | 1285-86 | | | | 1284-85 | | | | 1283-84 | | | | 1282-83 | | | | 1281-82 | | | | 1280-81 | | | | 1279-80 | | | | 1278-79 | | | | 1277-78 | | | | 1276-77 | | | | 1275-76 | | | | 1274-75 | | | | 1273-74 | | | | 1272-73 | | | | 1271-72 | | | | 1270-71 | | | | 1269-70 | | | | 1268-69 | | | | 1267-68 | | | | 1266-67 | | | | 1265-66 | | | | 1264-65 | | | | 1263-64 | | | | 1262-63 | | | | 1261-62 | | | | 1260-61 | | | | 1259-60 | | | | 1258-59 | | | | 1257-58 | | | | 1256-57 | | | | 1255-56 | | | | 1254-55 | | | | 1253-54 | | | | 1252-53 | | | | 1251-52 | | | | 1250-51 | | | | 1249-50 | | | | 1248-49 | | | | 1247-48 | | | | 1246-47 | | | | 1245-46 | | | | 1244-45 | | | | 1243-44 | | | | 1242-43 | | | | 1241-42 | | | | 1240-41 | | | | 1239-40 | | | | 1238-39 | | | | 1237-38 | | | | 1236-37 | | | | 1235-36 | | | | 1234-35 | | | | 1233-34 | | | | 1232-33 | | | | 1231-32 | | | | 1230-31 | | | | 1229-30 | | | | 1228-29 | | | | 1227-28 | | | | 1226-27 | | | | 1225-26 | | | | 1224-25 | | | | 1223-24 | | | | 1222-23 | | | | 1221-22 | | | | 1220-21 | | | | 1219-20 | | | | 1218-19 | | | | 1217-18 | | | | 1216-17 | | | | 1215-16 | | | | 1214-15 | | | | 1213-14 | | | | 1212-13 | | | | 1211-12 | | | | 1210-11 | | | | 1209-10 | | | | 1208-09 | | | | 1207-08 | | | | 1206-07 | | | | 1205-06 | | | | 1204-05 | | | | 1203-04 | | | | 1202-03 | | | | 1201-02 | | | | 1200-01 | | | | 1199-00 | | | | 1198-99 | | | | 1197-98 | | | | 1196-97 | | | | 1195-96 | | | | 1194-95 | | | | 1193-94 | | | | 1192-93 | | | | 1191-92 | | | | 1190-91 | | | | 1189-90 | | | | 1188-89 | | | | 1187-88 | | | | 1186-87 | | | | 1185-86 | | | | 1184-85 | | | | 1183-84 | | | | 1182-83 | | | | 1181-82 | | | | 1180-81 | | | | 1179-80 | | | | 1178-79 | | | | 1177-78 | | | | 1176-77 | | | | 1175-76 | | | | 1174-75 | | | | 1173-74 | | | | 1172-73 | | | | 1171-72 | | | | 1170-71 | | | | 1169-70 | | | | 1168-69 | | | | 1167-68 | | | | 1166-67 | | | | 1165-66 | | | | 1164-65 | | | | 1163-64 | | | | 1162-63 | | | | 1161-62 | | | | 1160-61 | | | | 1159-60 | | | | | | | |
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CRICKET: HEIR APPARENT TAKES CHARGE OF A SIDE FULL OF PROMISE AS THE SEASON GETS OFF TO A GLORIOUS START

Gower steps in to captain the young lions of England

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

In conjunction with the England selectors, MCC have chosen a young side, under David Gower's captaincy, to represent them against Essex, last year's county champions, in the season's curtain-raiser at Lord's next Wednesday. No one is older than 27, an age at which the future still beckons.

The surprise would have been if anyone other than Gower had been put in charge. It has become a tradition to go to the man in possession. That would have meant Willis, had he been fit. Instead, as happened in the corresponding match last year when Willis withdrew with flu, it means his deputy, Gower.

Willis is said to be still "very weak" from the virus which brought about his premature return from Pakistan. By the time his back to full fitness the chances are that the one-day international will have come and gone and Gower will have assumed the mantle. In Pakistan, when he captained England in the last two Test matches, Gower's scores were 152, 9, and 173 not out, an indication, if ever there was one, that added responsibility could enhance rather than destroy his game.

It is good to see a Cowdrey back in a representative side. Christopher has less natural talent than his father, Colin, but, because he needs to be, he is probably more adaptable. The Williamses, though starkly unrelated (Neil is a white Welshman, Neil a non-white Welshman from the Isle of Man), are in common that they were both on the verge of being chosen for the winter tour. Richard is after Marks's place as an off-spinning all-rounder; Neil, like Cowans, belongs to the strong Middlesex school of fast bowlers.

Only Richard Williams spent the winter in England. Five of the side played with England: the Cowdrey, Dowdall and Nicholas were in South Africa; Neil Williams went back to St Vincent and Lloyd was in Australia.

Of the MCC side to be chosen for the same match last year, when the weather, in fact, prevented a ball from being bowled, Emery has "lost it". Dilley is laid low, Patel remains in contention, and neither Potter and Thomas have rather marked times. A glance at those chosen is enough to raise hopes for the years ahead.

TEAM: D I Gower (Leicestershire, captain), T A Lloyd (Warwickshire), G L Smith (Hampshire), M C J Nicholas (Gloucestershire), M W Gatting (Middlesex), C S Cowdrey (Kent), R G Williams (Northamptonshire), P R Dowdall (Middlesex), N G G Cook (Leicestershire), N F Williams (Middlesex), N G Cowans (Middlesex).



Out but in: Gower, named as MCC captain, at Fenner's yesterday while playing for Leicestershire.

My future is with Sussex, Pigott says

Tony Pigott today explained why he has decided to stay and sign a three-year contract with Sussex and not join Somerset despite agreeing with them.

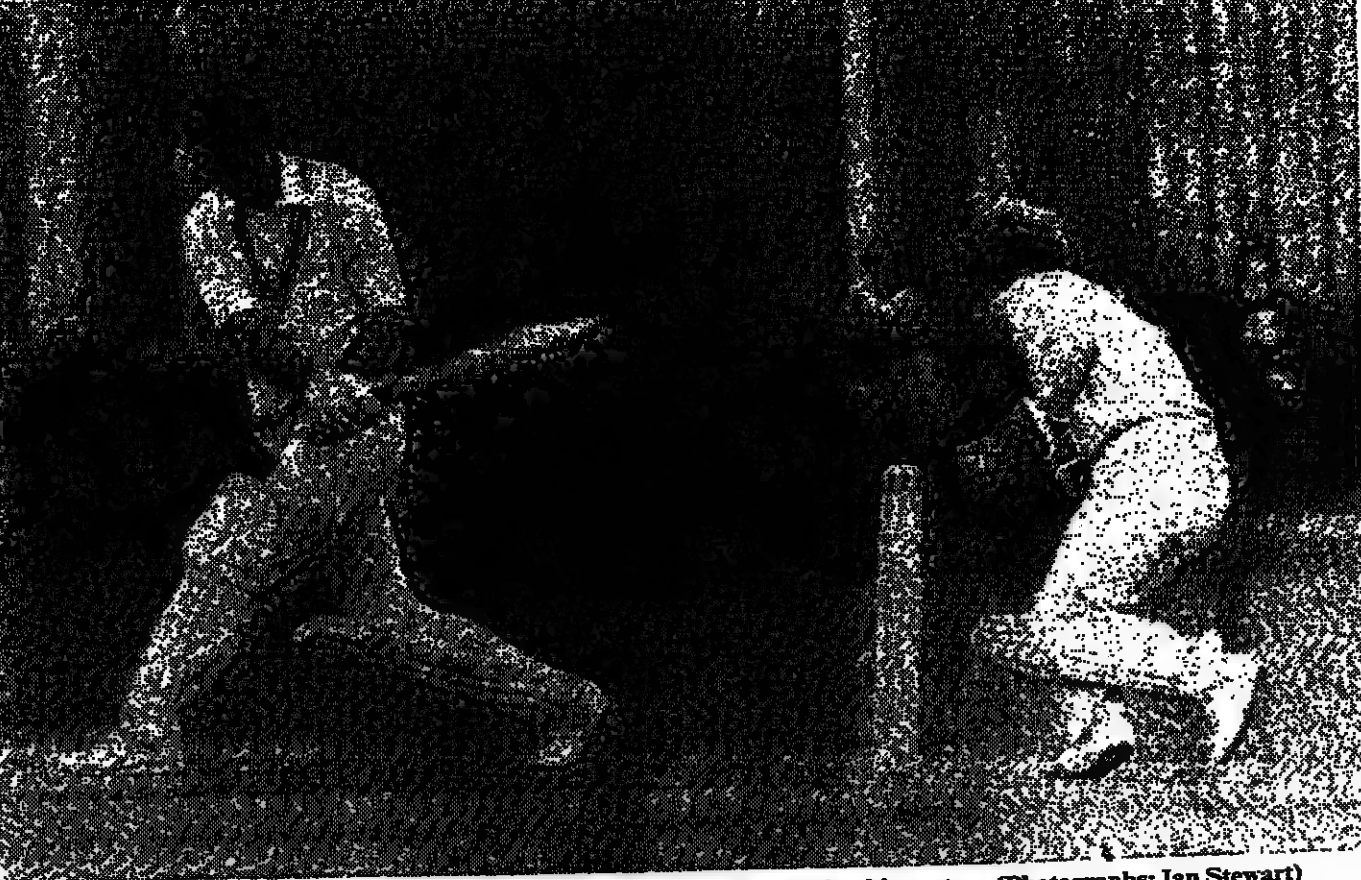
"I felt I could not bow for Somerset as I do for Sussex, and the players - the captain, John Barlow, Ian Gould and Ian Greig, particularly - have convinced me my future is with Sussex. The move would not have brought me extra money, and I considered it because I felt the management of the club was getting nowhere," he said.

"Sussex have not made a fresh offer to me and I am still disappointed about their original terms, but I am back now and greatly looking forward to the start of the season, when I hope to be fully fit following a shin operation."

Stewart Storey, the Sussex chief coach, said Pigott had gone through the preliminary stages of signing for Somerset, but Sussex had not counter-offered the form, which would have made the move irreversible.

Sussex's secretary, Tony Brown, said Pigott had apologized for the trouble he had taken in fixing him up with a car and a house. "There is nothing we can do about it and we can't hold him to the contract, although it is a very surprising situation," he said.

● Hampshire, who have lost more than £92,000 in the last two years, have regained £10,000 through a sponsorship deal.



Hitting out: Willey, Leicestershire's vice-captain, strikes a four during his century (Photographs: Ian Stewart)

No fanfares herald the miracle that is Fenner's

By Simon Barnes

They do it differently in America, of course. The first ball of the baseball season gets pitched by Ronald Reagan and great fanfares and excitement. But M. H. Thatcher was not on hand at Fenner's yesterday when someone was required to bowl the first ball of the new cricket season.

Instead, the job fell to L. E. W. Sanders, of Cambridge University. No fanfares. And it was a full toss. Balderstone, opening for Leicestershire, paddled it away with vague amiability and suddenly it was spring, cricket was with us once again, and it was all pure joy for the scattering of pilgrims gathered around the pitch to share this annual miracle and reaffirmation of faith.

Eight runs from the first over - was this an omen for a summer packed with runs? Brian (Tonker) Taylor, the former Essex captain, now coaching Cambridge, said the track was so good David Gower would probably bat for three days.

It was all very decorous and genteel, of course, old friends greeting each other in the most hideous necktie a civilised man can get away with, the MCC Dayglo extravaganza, while, as is the way at small grounds, the players rubbed shoulders with the spectators and seemed more like ordinary human beings than gods (apart from Gower, of course).

● Nick Cook, Gower's Leicestershire and England colleague, was looking quizzically at a benign-looking wicket. Fenner's seemed several light years away from the sort of matches Gower and Gower are hoping to play in later this season. At Fenner's people do not bang Red Stripes beer-cans together and holler for blood.

In the first half hour of this season, 41 runs were scored. "The West Indies are full of exciting players," Cook said, "playing against them is the height of a professional's career. So you want to make a decent sort of job of it."

Sanders took the season's first wicket as Butcher, snickered to slip. "I know it sounds dull," Cook said, "but my aim is just to bowl well for Leicestershire. Anything else will follow on from that." Gower came out, aiming to bat well for Leicestershire, and made some delightful hits. But perhaps he is wary of peaking too soon.

At any rate, after 32 runs (never mind the total, feel the quality), he got himself out in an extremely small, spectacular spin bowler called Golding, who looks exactly like Jennings's friend, Darbishire. Still, plenty from. Let us hope.

It was lunch. The season's first terrifying line of bottles of salad cream were ready to face the players. Then the sun came out. Gower left it to Balderstone to score the season's first ton, and very fluent it was, too, barring the compulsory slow-down.

By then, it was ten past three. Somnolent patters of applause, small boys chasing tennis balls and autographs, a couple of beery shouts, then even to take off a sweater and have another beer. Cricket is back. *Deo Gratias.*

Balderstone and Willey give Cambridge punishing lecture

By Richard Streeton

FENNER'S: Cambridge University, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 313 runs behind Leicestershire.

A raw Cambridge side, who included seven players without first-class experience, attended a punishing lecture by Leicestershire yesterday. The earliest start to a new English season since 1906 was marked by chanceless centuries by Balderstone and Willey.

Cambridge, who were left an hour's batting, have had several respectable seasons in recent years by modern standards, but they could face a lean time this summer. Their problems have already started with Angus Pollock, the elected captain, being debarred by his tutors from playing until after June examinations.

Ian Peck, the 1980 and 1981 captain, now a teacher at Bedford School, has returned to lead the side in the early games. Conversely, a left-arm spinner, and Hewitt, the wicket-keeper, are the only 1983 Blues in this match: Pathmanathan, the only other Blue in residence, was unavailable.

It was breezy and overcast when Peck put Leicestershire on a slow pitch.

Balderstone, who began with Yorkshire before nine of his opponents were born, gave an unbridled demonstration of cover driving and inevitable accumulation. Willey, who despite his two-eyed stance, is perfectly positioned when he hits the ball, intermingled watchful moments with more violent ones.

Each man needed three hours to reach his century and both hit 13 fours.

Butcher missed an opportunity when he was held at second slip after pushing forward at Sanders, a medium-paced bowler. Gower gave much pleasure for half an hour before he was caught at backward square leg against Golding, a left-arm spinner on the Essex staff.

Balderstone was out when he

played a ball from Andrew, an off spinner, onto his foot and it spun back to the wicketkeeper.

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings
J C Balderstone at Hewitt b Andrew 105
I P Butcher c Lee b Sanders 22
D I Gower c Price b Golding 22
P Willey not out 141
N F Williams not out 19
M A Gurnham b Andrew 36
G J Gurnham not out 14
Extras (b 1, lb 1, nb 0) 2
Total (8 wickets) 353
NG B Cook, J P Agnew and L B Taylor did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-59, 2-88, 3-229, 4-229, 5-230, 6-237, 7-240, 8-241, 9-241, 10-241, 11-241, 12-241, 13-241, 14-241, 15-241, 16-241, 17-241, 18-241, 19-241, 20-241, 21-241, 22-241, 23-241, 24-241, 25-241, 26-241, 27-241, 28-241, 29-241, 30-241, 31-241, 32-241, 33-241, 34-241, 35-241, 36-241, 37-241, 38-241, 39-241, 40-241, 41-241, 42-241, 43-241, 44-241, 45-241, 46-241, 47-241, 48-241, 49-241, 50-241, 51-241, 52-241, 53-241, 54-241, 55-241, 56-241, 57-241, 58-241, 59-241, 60-241, 61-241, 62-241, 63-241, 64-241, 65-241, 66-241, 67-241, 68-241, 69-241, 70-241, 71-241, 72-241, 73-241, 74-241, 75-241, 76-241, 77-241, 78-241, 79-241, 80-241, 81-241, 82-241, 83-241, 84-241, 85-241, 86-241, 87-241, 88-241, 89-241, 90-241, 91-241, 92-241, 93-241, 94-241, 95-241, 96-241, 97-241, 98-241, 99-241, 100-241, 101-241, 102-241, 103-241, 104-241, 105-241, 106-241, 107-241, 108-241, 109-241, 110-241, 111-241, 112-241, 113-241, 114-241, 115-241, 116-241, 117-241, 118-241, 119-241, 120-241, 121-241, 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Brendan Lynch

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CHIEF PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL

LAW DEPARTMENT, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

POSITION No. 42.10.0001.7

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The successful applicant will have:

Demonstrated ability and substantial experience in drafting legislation.
Managing and organising ability necessary to direct the drafting of all Government legislation.
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PUBLIC NOTICES

ELIZABETH SADDLEBY deceased. With my own hand having executed the last will and testament of the late Elizabeth Saddleby, I hereby certify that the same is a true and correct copy of the original.

Solicitor, 13 Railway Terrace, Auckland, New Zealand. Tel: 0646 54491. Ref: 0646.

LEGAL NOTICES

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THE COMPANIES ACT 1948. I, GEORGE ALBERT AUGUST, Limited, a company incorporated in New Zealand, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the original.

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The Advertising department will be closed on Friday 20th April, and Monday 23rd April, 1984.

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Car Buyer's Guide

Mercedes

Jaguar/Daimler

E Type 1968

JAGUAR SOVEREIGN '84 MODEL

E Type 4.2

DAIMLER SOVEREIGN

DAIMLER LIMOUSINE

JAGUAR XJS HE 1983

E Type Mark II C.V.W. Late 74

DAIMLER VANDER PLEAS

JAGUAR XJS HE 1983

E Type Mark II C.V.W. Late 74

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